

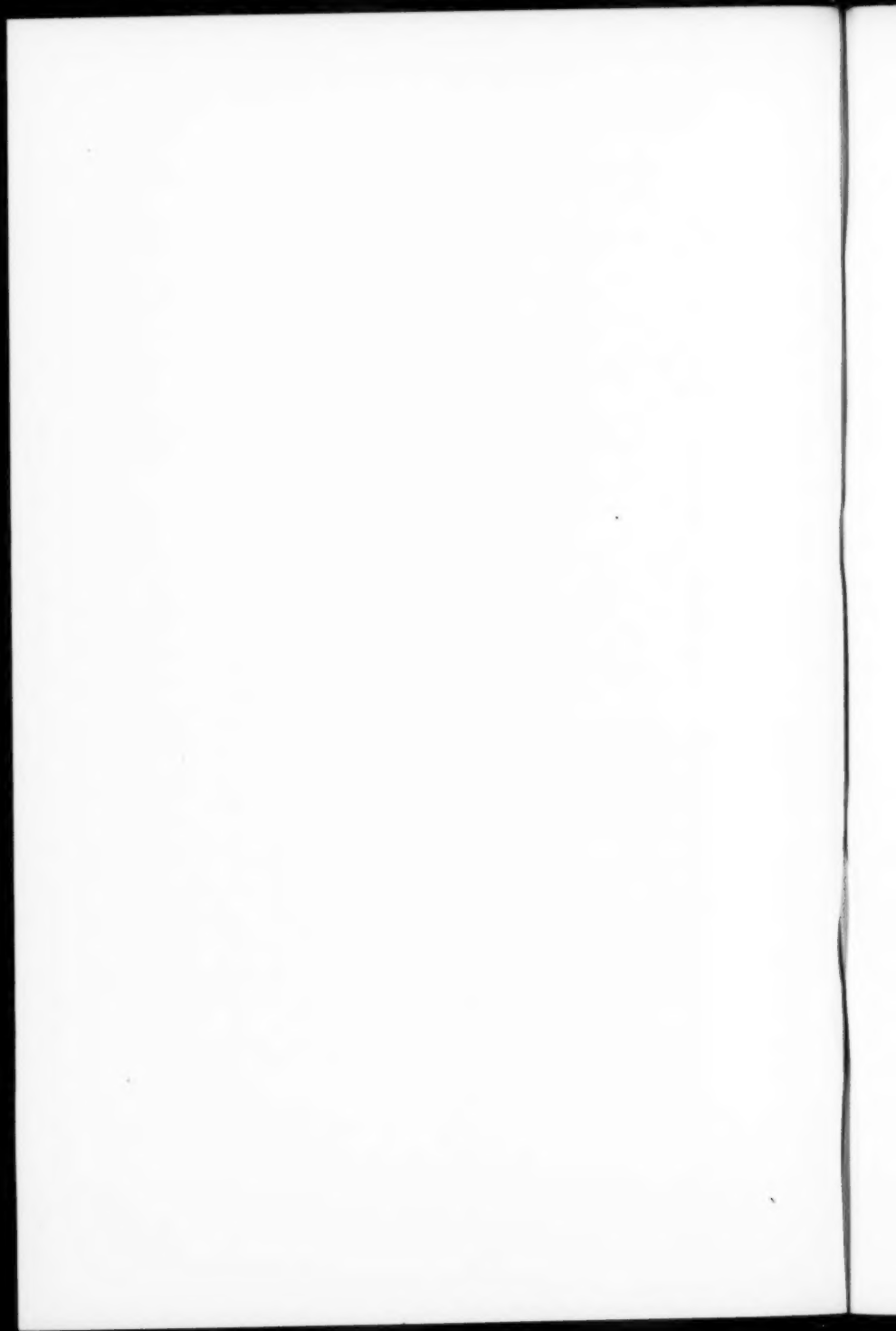
MINNESOTA HISTORY

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LAHONTAN IN MINNESOTA¹

One would look in vain in the honor roll of the explorers and discoverers of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley for the name of the Baron de Lahontan. Not a single monument has been erected in his memory, not a single tablet inscribed in his honor. Yet, if the forgotten baron had his deserts, his name would stand beside those of Marquette and Jolliet and La Salle in the history of the Father of Waters. In particular the state of Minnesota would recall his memory as the man who was the first to push his way into the north central part of that state and to approach the great northern divide over a century before it became known to the world. French Canada, where the name of the baron is either utterly forgotten or utterly despised, ought to honor him as one of the most gallant, most talented, and most devoted of the nobles of France who spent the best of their years in the service of New France.

But it was the fate of the baron to "get in wrong." He went to Canada in 1683 as an officer in the army. He was at that time a boy of seventeen. In the letters which he wrote home, and which he printed twenty years later as his *Voyages*, he was silly enough to repeat the barrack room stories he had heard about the class of women that the king of France had sent out to Canada twenty years before to be the brides of a disbanded regiment of his soldiers. The merry young baron "made his mouth warm over it," as the French have it, without realizing the falsity and the reach of the insult. As a matter of fact, it has reached down the centuries until today, and those of the people of Quebec who have ever heard of the name of Lahontan know it,

¹An abstract of an address delivered before the Minnesota Historical Society on October 18, 1933. *Ed.*

therefore, as that of the man who slandered "the mothers of French Canada." In the light of that, all else that the baron did went for nothing.

But the unhappy young nobleman "got in" even worse. In his same letters of travel he expressed his opinion very frankly about the priests of New France and told how they tried, as he saw it, to tyrannize over the life of the colonists; worse than that, he was ill-advised enough to put into his travels and memoirs a lot of the scepticism already coming into fashion in his day. His dialogue on Christianity, carried on with an imaginary Indian, would have been enough to damn him even without the unlucky references to the women and the priests.

As a consequence the real achievements of Lahontan were belittled and his voyage of discovery into what is now Minnesota was laughed at as a fabrication. A few people in France tried to defend the story, but they lacked facts. The legend of Lahontan as a liar grew and solidified. It was presently accepted as a fact without further examination. Even the honest and industrious Francis Parkman compares the story to Gulliver. For once Parkman seems to prefer popular approval to the search after historic truth and accepts without proper investigation the current story. Finally, Mr. J. E. Roy, in a paper—admirable but erroneous—presented to the Royal Society of Canada in 1894, covers the whole career of Lahontan and rules him out of court as an infidel and a liar. Since then oblivion has fallen on the baron. In the latest edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* there is no article on Lahontan and no reference to his name appears in the index.

Lahontan went to Canada in 1683 and served there for ten years. He was in garrison at Quebec, Montreal, Chambly, and elsewhere. He spent many months, on various occasions, hunting and living with the Algonquins, whose language he mastered thoroughly. He took part in

NEW
VOYAGES
TO
North-America.

CONTAINING

An Account of the several Nations of that vast Continent ; their Customs, Commerce, and Way of Navigation upon the Lakes and Rivers ; the several Attempts of the *English* and *French* to dispossess one another ; with the Reasons of the Miscarriage of the former ; and the various Adventures between the *French*, and the *Iroquesse* Confederates of *England*, from 1683 to 1694.

A Geographical Description of *Canada*, and a Natural History of the Country, with Remarks upon their Government, and the Interest of the *English* and *French* in their Commerce.

Also a Dialogue between the Author and a General of the Savages, giving a full View of the Religion and strange Opinions of those People : With an Account of the Authors Retreat to *Portugal* and *Denmark*, and his Remarks on those Courts.

To which is added,

A Dictionary of the *Algonkine* Language, which is generally spoke in *North-America*.

Illustrated with Twenty Three Mapps and Cutts.

Written in *French*

By the Baron LAHONTAN, Lord Lievtenant of the *French* Colony at *Placentia* in *Newfoundland*, now in *England*.

Done into *English*.

In Two VOLUMES.

A great part of which never Printed in the Original.

LONDON: Printed for H. Bennicke in St. Paul's Church-yard ; T. Godwin, M. Watton, B. Tooke, in Fleetstreet ; and S. Manship in Cornhill, 1703.

THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE FIRST ENGLISH EDITION OF
LAHONTAN'S BOOK

the expeditions against the Iroquois under La Barre and Denonville. He commanded a detachment of French and Indians in an expedition to Michilimackinac, where it stayed for a year. He served under Frontenac when Sir William Phips was driven away from Quebec. He helped to beat off an English fleet from Newfoundland, a service for which the king made him lieutenant, that is, lieutenant governor, of Placentia, or, so to speak, of French Newfoundland. His account of all his campaigns and adventures, of life in the woods, of Indian wars and Indian cruelty, of his part in the great epic of the coming of the white races to the forests of America reads like a story book. After the *Nouveaux Voyages* of the Baron de Lahontan was first printed in Holland in 1703, it was read all over polite Europe and it passed through edition after edition. The singular charm of Lahontan's writing, as fascinating today as it was two hundred years ago, appealed to thousands of people who would have yawned over the pages of the *Jesuit Relations* or the history of Charlevoix. Even today no one disputes the wonderful accuracy of Lahontan's account of war and peace in New France.

But when the book came out, Lahontan was already in disgrace. A quarrel with his senior, the governor of Newfoundland,—a quarrel of youth with age, of wit with stupidity, of efficiency with ineptitude,—had led to his banishment from France. He lived and died (1713) in exile. His banishment further helped to discredit, most unjustly, his reputation.

Now when the young Baron de Lahontan, still well under thirty, was in command at Michilimackinac, it occurred to him that he might use the enforced leisure of an interval of temporary peace in a voyage of exploration. His own curiosity was always insatiable, and at the moment the curiosity of all the world was turned toward the Mississippi. Let us recall the chronology of the matter. The Missis-

issippi was discovered, not at its mouth, but from overland higher up, by the Spaniard De Soto in 1641. He and his men wintered on the Ouachita River in Arkansas. After their visit the Mississippi passes out of record till 1673, when Jolliet and Father Marquette went from Lake Huron by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the upper Mississippi. In 1680 Father Hennepin reached the Mississippi by the same route. After being captured by the Sioux, he was taken upstream to a point near the present site of St. Paul and then overland to the Sioux village on Mille Lacs. Later, with the permission of the Indians, he descended the Rum River and the Mississippi on a journey that resulted in the discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony. Eventually Hennepin was rescued by Daniel Greysolon, sieur du Lhut, who reached the river from Lake Superior by way of the St. Croix.

In 1682 La Salle descended the Mississippi to its mouth and named and claimed Louisiana. Upon returning to France he equipped a new expedition in 1684 to reach the Mississippi from the gulf. Mystery closed over his fate. We know now that he was murdered by some of his own men in 1687. But at the alleged time of Lahontan's journey (1689-90), news of La Salle's fate had reached France only as criminal confession and uncertain rumor.

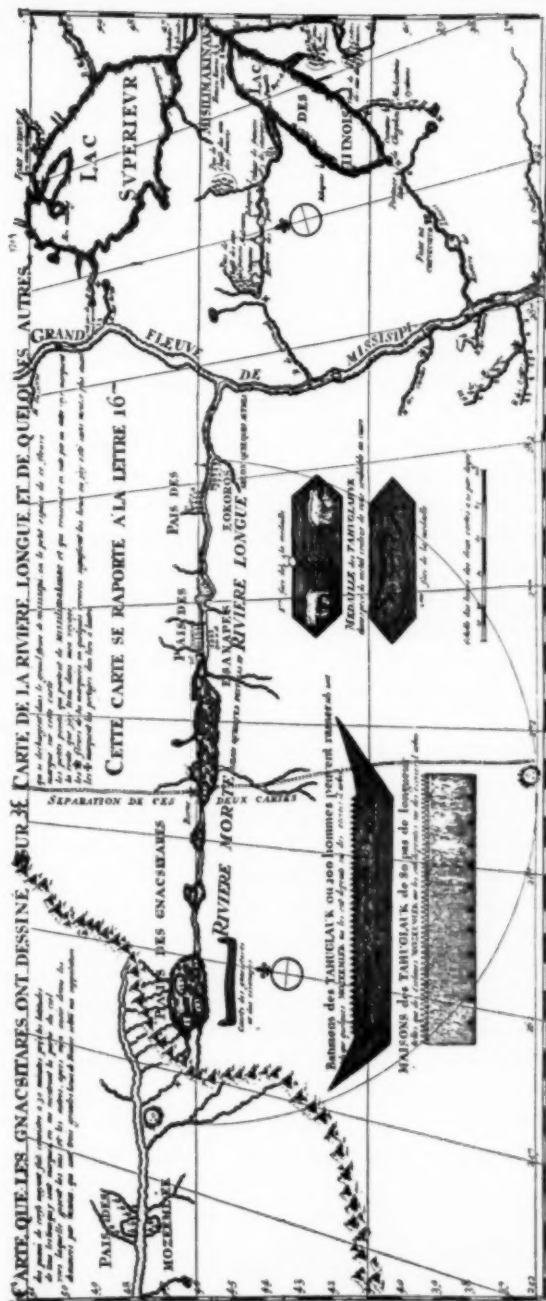
This new vast territory of the great river, therefore, appealed to adventurous minds as did the East Indies to Vasco da Gama or the coast of America to Columbus. Indeed, it was still the quest of Columbus—the "search for the Western Sea"—that inspired the explorers. To modern eyes without historical perspective Lahontan's voyage into the marshes and meadows of central Minnesota seems vague and purposeless. To his contemporaries the aim was as clear as was that of Nansen and Peary in their search for the North Pole.

Lahontan says that he left Michilimackinac with soldiers

and Indians on September 24, 1688, entered Green Bay off Lake Michigan,—which he calls "*Baie des Puants*,"—went up the Fox River, portaged to the Wisconsin River, and reached its junction with the Mississippi on October 23, 1688. From there he says he went up the Mississippi so many days and so many leagues. Thus far there is no inherent objection to the story. If he did not do as he says, at least he could have. The times and distances are consistent. Per contra he could have made up the story! The route was known and had been described. After ascending the Mississippi till November 2, Lahontan came, so he says, to a stretch of shoals and cascades. There he turned off into a branch of the river that came in from the left. If this is not the rapid water below the Falls of St. Anthony, and if the river is not the Minnesota (otherwise known as the St. Peter's or St. Pierre), at least it could have been.

Now begins the controversial matter. Lahontan, like a chess player, has got beyond the moves in the book. He cannot copy. What he says is that he found here a long, long river, most of which was very still and quiet and with reaches almost stagnant. It was long, very long. Lahontan gives no accurate table of distances. How can he? "We went 12 leagues"; "we stopped five days"; "we hunted"; "we went 12 leagues"; "the savages said that 60 leagues further we should find so and so." It is all like that. It adds up at least to hundreds of miles. The Minnesota, incidentally, has a course of 450 miles. It has long still reaches. Most of it is navigable for steamers.

Lahontan says that he met various tribes of Indians as he went up. There were the Nadouessis, and the Eokoros, and the Gnacsitaires, and the Essanapes. These names might well look bewildering and absurd, in fact like Gulliver's names. But the Nadouessis are quite evidently the Nadouessioux of Hennepin and others, and are merely the



LAHONTAN'S MAP OF THE LONG RIVER

[From a copy in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.]

Sioux. Any one acquainted with the phonetic bewilderment of Indian names written down by white people will be ready to accept the Eokoros as the Crows and the Essanapes as the Assiniboin. Both these names have appeared in various forms. As an illustration of the multiform ways of spelling the Indian names of western places, Mr. Carl Roden, librarian of the Chicago Public Library, sent to the writer twenty-one of the more familiar ways of writing the Indian word for Chicago. Among these first prize may be awarded to "Stktschagko," with honorable mention for "Tschakko."

Now the Minnesota River runs with a great bend or elbow somewhat below the middle of its course. That is, it comes down from the north, then turns sideways and a little upward and in its lower course toward its union with the Mississippi its general direction is from the southwest to the northeast. One might, therefore, argue that it was very wonderful of Lahontan to have invented a long, long river like the Minnesota—for no white person had yet seen the course of the Minnesota and recorded it—but very unlucky that he forgot its outstanding feature, the huge bend in its course. How easily could that disqualify his whole story! What! Leave out by accident such an obvious fact? Impossible!

But alas for argument when confronted by fact! The next white explorer of this region was a certain Captain Carver, a veteran of the Seven Years' War. In 1766 he ascended the Minnesota. No one has ever doubted that. He went away up—in distance obviously beyond the great curve. He never refers to it in his book, *Travels through the Interior Parts of North-America in the Years 1766, 1767, and 1768* (London, 1778), in which he records in great detail the scenery along the banks and the Indians who dwelt there.

Lahontan speaks constantly as if he and his Indians

"sailed" up the river. Again and again he writes, "the wind being unfavorable we had to use our oars," or, "the wind being so and so we sailed." The critic objects that mast and sails were unknown to the American Indian, who used only canoes. The answer is that the Indians of the plains used dugouts or pirogues and that they sailed these boats by standing up in them with a blanket held outward by both arms and downward by their feet. Carver describes this.

Carver had read, or had heard of, Lahontan's narrative. It is only fair to say that he says that "many of the stories told by the Baron are mere delusions." But this is not the same as saying that the baron was not there and that his journey is fabulous. He says the account is "very erroneous" in its geographical parts. But he says the same of Charlevoix. Geographical mistakes in first-hand exploration are inevitable and universal. See any explorer's first map of any country. The "stories" most likely refer to Lahontan's experiences on the upper stretches of the river beyond where Carver reached. There he met a swarthy tribe of natives, whom he called "Mozeemleks." They were dark, and had beards. This is the acid test of Lahontan's narrative. Where are those bearded savages now? Notice again that Catlin, the famous traveler of the early nineteenth century, whose book on the North American Indians, published in 1839, is a classic, speaks of the extraordinary and abundant hair of the Crows and other tribes; says that they would have beards but that they pull them out; and that some old men (careless old fellows!) let them grow.

The "toughest" part of Lahontan's narrative now follows, and it proves to be really its chief corroboration. The Mozeemleks tell him that the Long River rises in marshes and hills up to the north; that beyond this is another river, their own proper river, which runs away to the

north—they give the distance in leagues, but it means merely a long, long way—till it reaches a great salt sea. On and around this live the Tahuglauk (more Gulliver!) who dress in skins, with pointed caps that pull over their heads, who are swarthy and wear beards and carry poles in their hands. What this means is that over the Minnesota divide the rivers flow north till they reach the Hudson Bay; that there live the bearded Eskimo, dressed in furs, with their kayak poles in their hands. We know that the Eskimo centuries ago lived as far south as this. If Lahontan was lying, he was, indeed, a wonderful liar.

Some of the critics once proved that Lahontan lied because the weather did not fit! Imagine, they said, voyaging at forty below zero (as it always is in Minnesota) in open pirogues on frozen rivers in December blizzards. But that will not do. Lahontan said there was no ice till well into December. It appears there often is none till then. When the winter got too severe the party turned back.

The return was easy; down the "Long River," down the Mississippi, a little way up the Missouri and back, then down to the "Ouabach," or Wabash,—here, as often, the Ohio,—then up the Mississippi again, and so by the Illinois portage to "Chekakou," which is Chicago. The fatal objection that there were no hotels in Chicago in 1690 easily vanishes. The name antedates by centuries even Fort Dearborn. And so Lahontan and his men passed down Lake Michigan and back home to Michilimackinac in May of 1689.

Lahontan in all his memoirs writes like a gentleman, like a man of honor. No literary skill or duplicity could counterfeit the honor and the honesty of his narration. Lahontan would not lie, and could not lie. He was, so far as recorded words go, the first discoverer of central Minnesota and the Red River portage route to the Canadian

Northwest. But for the cold, he would have gone to Winnipeg; others can sympathize.

The whole matter resolves itself into giving a dog a bad name and then hanging him. It remains for some Minnesota scholar on the spot to follow up the track, measure the distances, locate the islands or the marshes, and vindicate a great and courageous name from historic slander.

STEPHEN LEACOCK

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FRONTIER FOOD¹

The influx of settlers into Minnesota Territory in the fifties led to a significant increase in the consumption of food products, and a problem that demanded the consideration of both the father and the mother in a pioneer home was that of providing food for the family. Before leaving their old homes, many of the settlers had read letters from lumbermen, fur traders, and earlier settlers who gave encouraging descriptions of the bountiful providence of nature in the Minnesota country. "Pigeons can be had for the shooting," wrote one pioneer woman, "and fish swim ashore to be caught."² Nevertheless, some cautious housewives whose resources permitted the purchase of groceries took with them to their new homes some staple supplies to tide them over the first few months on the frontier. By using these sparingly and supplementing them with wild fruit and game, the pioneer family had enough food to last until the first harvest.

The demands of the new settlers in the Minnesota region opened a profitable trade for local grocers, and dealers in river towns farther south negotiated for the shipment of food into the territory. The *Galena Advertiser* in 1851 comments upon the river traffic as follows: "While in the Eastern counties of this State [*Illinois*] and Wisconsin, the farmers send the surplus of their stock East; in this neighborhood, and South along the river, they are forwarded northward to supply the Lumberman, Indians, Garrisons,

¹ This article is based upon a chapter in a master's thesis on "Frontier Homes and Home Management," which was submitted at the University of Minnesota in 1933. The account of frontier housekeeping that appeared in the September issue of the magazine was taken from the same thesis. *Ed.*

² Abby Fuller Abbe to Elizabeth Fuller, December 30, 1860, Fuller Papers, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

and settlers with meat in the newly occupied lands." The departure from Galena of a steamboat carrying "forty-two cows and about twenty calves" for a Minnesota dealer is noted.³

The suffering experienced by many settlers when trade connections were cut off during the winter shows the extent to which they depended upon previously developed farming country for food in the early years of settlement. When Charlotte Van Cleve and her family removed from Michigan to Long Prairie in 1856, they purchased their first year's supplies on the way, in Dubuque. The groceries were delayed in shipment, and for a short period during the winter months the family had to exist on unground wheat, which was boiled and eaten with salt. One family living in Martin County in 1859 consumed its store of flour and meal before February. The small supply of grain that remained was ground sparingly and used to make bread, which was served twice a day. The noon meal for three weeks consisted of potatoes and salt, and for another four weeks of potatoes alone, before the father could get provisions from Mankato. The arrival of the "Nominee" in St. Paul in the spring of 1853 was joyfully hailed by the citizens, who hastened down to the landing. Barrels of eggs and of ham and boxes of crackers were rolled out and sold at once, every man carrying home his prize. St. Paul was the chief landing place for supplies for the whole region, and at this point foodstuffs were transferred from steamboats to wagons for distribution in the interior.⁴

The variety of products advertised in St. Paul and St. Anthony papers shows that the resources of the housewife

³ *Galena Advertiser*, July 11, 1851, reprinted in the *Minnesota Pioneer* (St. Paul), July 17, 1851. The newspapers used in the preparation of this article are in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

⁴ Charlotte O. Van Cleve, *Three Score Years and Ten*, 135 (Minneapolis, 1888); Lucy L. W. Morris, *Old Rail Fence Corners*, 165 (Austin, Minnesota, 1914).

in these communities were not so restricted as those of her rural sisters. In April, 1849, the firm of Freeman, Larpenteur Company included in its spring merchandise apples, sugar, ham, lard, cheese, molasses, and dried peaches. The H. W. Tracy Company carried sugar, coffee, tea, cinnamon, mackerel, saleratus, peppermint, catsup, and pepper sauce. The Nathaniel E. Tyson Company offered, at Galena prices, a stock of lemon syrup, ginger, ground spice, nutmeg, cloves, peanuts, rice, dried currants, assorted pickles, and choice preserves, including peach, pear, quince, and other varieties. Even figs, prunes, pickled lobsters, tapioca, macaroni, oysters, candies, almonds, and raisins were made available to St. Paul housekeepers through their grocers. Wines and liquors were not lacking from the list, which included Holstetter bitters, Schiedam schnapps, London porter, Scotch ale, dry catawba, claret, Madeira, mint cordial, Scotch whisky, old Bourbon, Jamaica rum, Baltimore gin, New York brandy, and old Monongahela.⁵

Thrifty housekeepers often planned their menus to include wild fruits and game. Some of the native products of Minnesota were very palatable and added a regional charm to a dinner. Among the vegetables that grew wild in the district were the sweet potato, the turnip, and the artichoke. The swamp potato was found stored in muskrat lodges. The wild bean of the Minnesota Valley grew on a slender vine two or three feet high with pods several inches long. Hazelnuts, walnuts, hickory nuts, huckleberries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, wild plums, grapes, chokecherries, gooseberries, crab apples, and blueberries were found in various sections of the country. "Not in the garden; not in the old stone-fenced fields of timothy and clover," ran an article in the *New Era* of Sauk Rapids in 1860, "but out . . . on our prairies the strawberries are ripening . . . with all the sweetness and flavor we

⁵*Pioneer*, April 28, August 30, 1849; April 13, May 11, 1854; January 1, 1857.

used to so much love when we picked them on the hill-side in good old New England."⁶ Several pioneer women speak of wild tea or prairie tea which grew on a small bush.

Among the most abundant native plants were wild rice and the cranberry. The first of these furnished an important part of the winter diet of the Chippewa Indians. Many bands visited the rice regions toward the end of August to gather their winter supply. While the grain was in the milk, the Indians went out in canoes and tied it into bunches, covering each bunch with a bark shield to protect it from blackbirds. When the grain had matured, the Indians bent the stalks over their canoes and beat them with sticks to shake off the kernels of rice. Some families gathered about fifty bushels of rice in this manner for their year's supply.

Methods of curing wild rice varied among the Indians. The Chippewa in the St. Croix region heated it on a scaffold over a fire. Then the squaws put some rice in a hole in the ground and covered it with a deerskin. The grain was then threshed by a primitive method, the men assisting the squaws by jumping on the heap until the hulls were removed from the kernels. The task of winnowing was left to the squaws, who used birch-bark fans to blow away the chaff. While the bulk of the wild rice crop was fire cured on racks covered with rush matting, a portion was sometimes cured by parching the kernels in a large kettle over a slow fire.⁷ Visitors among the Indians at Mille Lacs in recent years report that this method is still used.

Mrs. William T. Boutwell, the wife of a missionary among the Chippewa, served her guests with wild rice in her home at Stillwater. They proclaimed it very palatable, much like the rice of commerce, but modified in flavor by the

⁶*New Era*, June 28, 1860; John Stevens, *Personal Recollections of Minnesota*, 61 (Minneapolis, 1890).

⁷Albert E. Jenks, "The Wild Rice Gatherers of the Upper Lakes," in Bureau of American Ethnology, *Annual Reports*, 1897-98, vol. 2, p. 1066 (Washington, 1900).

smoke employed in the curing process.⁸ A traveler estimated that an acre of rice provided the equivalent of an acre of wheat in food value. The fields covered many thousands of acres and "yielded all that is essential for breadstuff," according to one observer, who complained of "the waste of breadstuff in this region, from indolence and improvidence of the Indians."⁹

The triangle between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, bounded on the north by the St. Louis and Prairie rivers, was estimated as containing 256,000 acres of cranberry marshes. The first white woman who settled at Eden Prairie testified that she and her husband sold cranberries that grew in a bog on their land for a dollar a bushel and paid for their farm with the proceeds. A visitor to a farm near Stillwater in 1849 relates that the owner was planning to experiment with the cultivation of cranberries. The writer remarks that since the estimated yield was about 350 bushels an acre and the berry is a "species of fruit which will always be held in high estimation, it is not unreasonable to presume that its culture may . . . render it a prominent article among the staples of Minnesota."¹⁰ Cranberries figured among the exports of Minnesota throughout the fifties and were ranked as a product of first importance by James J. Hill at the time of his arrival in the territory in 1856. A scarcity of cranberries in 1860 led one writer to remark that this fruit needed systematic culture or "it will become too great a luxury to be used in most families. This state of things should not exist," he continues, "for nature has furnished us with almost an unlimited number of

⁸E. S. Seymour, *Sketches of Minnesota, the New England of the West*, 183 (New York, 1850).

⁹Joseph G. Norwood, "Geological Report of Wisconsin and Minnesota," in David D. Owen, *Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota*, 324 (Philadelphia, 1852).

¹⁰J. W. McClung, *Minnesota as It Is in 1870*, 150 (St. Paul, 1870); Morris, *Old Rail Fence Corners*, 91; Seymour, *Sketches of Minnesota*, 182.



INDIANS GATHERING WILD RICE

[From an engraving based on a drawing by Seth Eastman, in Mary H. Eastman, *The American Aboriginal Portfolio*, 50 (Philadelphia, 1853).]



INDIAN SUGAR CAMP

[From an engraving in Eastman, *American Aboriginal Portfolio*, 74.]

marshes, that may be easily converted into cranberry plantations."¹¹

Honey and maple sugar were two delicacies that were often found on the pioneer dinner table. A settler at Belle Plaine in 1860 gathered the honey from a hundred swarms of bees. He sold eight hundred pounds at sixteen to twenty cents a pound. In his hives, he arranged a special ventilating system to prevent the accumulation of frost "generated during the coldest weather from the breath of the bees." Maple sugar afforded the Chippewa an important article of diet. They tapped trees along the St. Croix and allowed the sap to run into birch-bark troughs made by the Indian women. The sugar-making process was carried on out-of-doors, where the sap was first boiled down to a syrup and then reduced to sugar in kettles swung from poles supported by forked sticks. Farmers also made maple sugar, which was a welcome addition to their larders. The quantity obtained by some settlers far exceeded the amount needed for use in their homes. One man in 1862 secured five hundred pounds of sugar out of one night's run of sap from nine hundred trees.¹² The production of maple sugar in Minnesota increased from 2,950 pounds in 1849 to 370,669 in 1859, and the amount of maple molasses produced in the state in 1860 was estimated at 23,038 gallons.¹³

The abundance of fish in Minnesota lakes and streams was noted by many writers during the fifties. Pickerel were brought into St. Paul on carts and sleds in December, 1851,

¹¹ J. J. Hill, "History of Agriculture," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8: 276 (St. Paul, 1898); *Minnesota Farmer and Gardener*, 1: 28 (November, 1860). The *Farmer and Gardener* is an agricultural journal that was published monthly from November, 1860, to April, 1862, in St. Paul; it reprinted crop reports from newspapers throughout the state and encouraged experimentation among farmers. The Minnesota Historical Society has a file of this periodical.

¹² *Farmer and Gardener*, 1: 123 (February, 1861); Return I. Holcombe and William H. Bingham, eds., *History and Biography of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota*, 63 (Chicago, 1914).

¹³ *United States Census, 1850, Compendium*, 336; 1860, *Agriculture*, xcix.

and sold at twenty to twenty-five cents a pair.¹⁴ The demand for fish in St. Paul led to commercial enterprises and experiments. In 1852 members of a small party using a fishing seine near Red Wing found that they could more than supply local needs. They procured salt and barrels and in a short time delivered in St. Paul forty barrels of fish, which were sold for six dollars a barrel. Although large quantities of pike, pickerel, bass, sturgeon, and dogfish were included in the net, only the choice catfish, buffalo fish, and carp were selected, according to one of the fishermen, who commented on the comparative food value of the different varieties. "These pioneers wanted fish which would repay in nutriment. Pike, pickerel, bass, and trout, as salt fish are about as nutrient as floating island, puffs, pastry and gimcracks, and are measurably worthless as food for strong working men."¹⁵ The fisheries on Lake Superior carried on an active trade with St. Paul. About forty sailing vessels were engaged in fishing along the Minnesota shore of the lake in 1860.¹⁶

The activities of fishermen in the vicinity of the Twin Cities led pioneer legislators to provide protection for fish in that region. Fishing in Lake Como was forbidden for two years after 1858. Trout fishing in Winona, Wabasha, Washington, and Fillmore counties was prohibited from November through March. In 1863 fishing in the outlets or inlets of Lakes Calhoun and Harriet was forbidden. The pioneer fisherman profited by his skill as a hunter, for methods of obtaining fish approved by law in 1864 included shooting them with a gun. Spearing and fishing with hook and line were also permitted.¹⁷

¹⁴*Pioneer*, December 25, 1851.

¹⁵ Joseph W. Hancock, *Goodhue County*, 45 (Red Wing, 1893).

¹⁶A memorial of the state legislature to the president of the United States about lighthouses on Lake Superior gives this estimate. See *Laws*, 1860, p. 314.

¹⁷*Laws*, 1858, p. 105, 285, 312; 1861, p. 180; 1864, p. 112; *Special Laws*, 1858, p. 152.

Flocks of wild ducks and geese which frequented the lakes in the wild rice region were noted by St. Paul papers in 1853. A letter written from that city in October, 1854, tells of the popularity of wild fowl for the table: "We have had duck and grouse every day for about a week. Amanda is very much afraid she will not be able to get them in plenty when Father is here."¹⁸ The widespread popularity of hunting in the early fifties is suggested by an editorial in the *Pioneer*. "Everyone who has leisure, and can beg, borrow, or steal a gun and pointer, will be off for the prairies," reads the comment. The marksman was spurred on by a "Vive la chasse," and the optimistic slogan "Every pop a pigeon" was coined. "Now that the Indians are vamosed," wrote the editor, "Deer will be more plenty, and killed with less labor than heretofore." Venison was often sold on the St. Paul market during the fifties, but it was more expensive than one might suppose it to have been. Beef sold at six or eight cents a pound in 1852, pork at eight or ten cents, and venison at twelve and a half cents. Unfriendly relations between the traders and the Indian hunters were suggested as an explanation for the high retail price.¹⁹

The buffaloes withdrew to the northern and western limits of the Minnesota country with the coming of farmers in the early fifties. Henry H. Sibley, in his speeches supporting the Indian treaties of 1851, stressed the lack of food for the Indians resulting from the scarcity of buffaloes, elk, and antelopes. According to one early settler, two very large herds of buffaloes came down from the northwest in the fall of 1856 and in January appeared about fifty miles west of St. Cloud and grazed near the Sauk River. The Red River half-breeds from Pembina

¹⁸*Pioneer*, March 24, 1853; Mrs. Alexis Bailly to her parents, October 20, 1854, in Cory-Forbes Papers, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

¹⁹*Pioneer*, December 18, 1851; January 1, 1852; July 20, 1854.

hunted the buffalo in the Red River Valley and much buffalo meat in the form of pemmican reached the St. Paul market, where, in 1850, it was sold for ten cents a pound. Buffalo tongues, which were considered a great delicacy, brought five dollars a dozen in the same year.²⁰

In the early forties a small agricultural colony was founded at Cottage Grove near the junction of the Mississippi and the St. Croix, and north of St. Paul the farming community of Little Canada was established. When the land west of the river was opened to settlers in 1851, the St. Paul market was supplied with fresh vegetables, but the amount of produce on the market was by no means equal to the demand. Vegetables raised in the vicinity of St. Paul were sent from time to time to the editor of the *Pioneer*, who published comments about them. In July, 1852, for example, "Friend Larpenteur sent in excellent new potatoes," and "a peck of fresh cucumbers," causing the editor to remark that "for raising vegetables, Minnesota can't be beat." Tomatoes, muskmelons, onions, and pink-eye potatoes also were received. A visitor to a farm near Lake Pepin reported seeing a field of corn that he estimated would yield a hundred bushels per acre. In the same field he saw "an incredible number of pumpkins, large and ripe." The need for a market house in St. Paul became apparent in 1852, as the farmers disliked the task of selling their produce at individual homes.²¹

City dwellers were not entirely dependent upon truck gardens, however, for neat fences inclosed flourishing vegetable gardens in many yards. The mayor of St. Paul on April 24, 1855, ate asparagus raised in his own garden. According to the *Pioneer* of August 18, 1859, "Farmers come

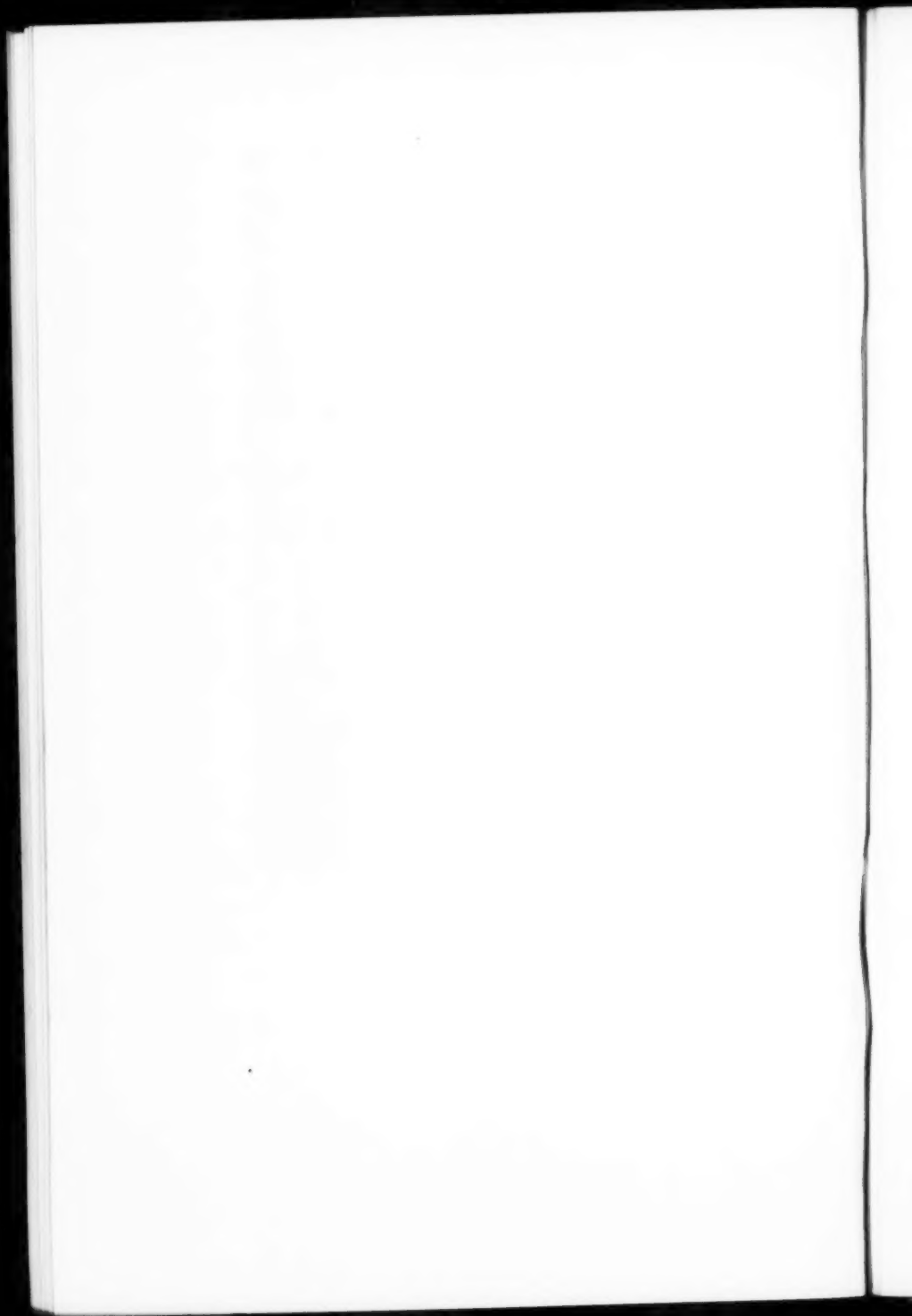
²⁰ *Pioneer*, August 5, 1852; Stevens, *Personal Recollections*, 282; "Isaac I. Stevens and the Pacific Railroad Survey of 1853," *ante*, 7: 147; Theodore C. Blegen, "Minnesota Pioneer Life as Revealed in Newspaper Advertisements," *ante*, 7: 120.

²¹ *Pioneer*, July 15, 22, August 12, September 23, 30, November 18, 1852.



THE ST. PAUL MARKET HOUSE

[From a photograph in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.]



into town with loads of the finest vegetables . . . and pass along the streets vainly seeking for buyers. . . . Almost every family in town is well supplied with vegetables from their own gardens." Prevailing notions on food values may have affected the sales also. It was said that vegetables eaten in moderation were a blessing, but people must "beware yet awhile of too free a use of esculents."²²

The cultivation of grains made possible both flour production and stock raising. Alexis Bailly found the soil of Minnesota favorable for the production of wheat. His fields near Lake Pepin on the Minnesota side of the river yielded more than forty bushels to the acre in 1853.²³ Wheat exportation occurred first in 1857. Crop failures interrupted shipments in 1858, but in 1859 excellent harvests permitted Minnesota farmers to resume the exportation of grains down the river. The wheat production area was located in the southeastern part of the territory along the Mississippi adjacent to older wheat-growing districts. Winona ranked first for wheat shipments in 1859, with Hastings, Brownsville, and Red Wing also listed as important depôts for the movement of grain.²⁴

Corn was really the chief crop in 1859, for 2,941,952 bushels were produced, an increase from 16,725 bushels in 1849. In the same decade the amount of wheat produced in Minnesota increased from 1,401 bushels to 2,186,993 bushels. Oats, the leading crop in 1849, ranked third ten years later, with 2,176,002 bushels, as against the estimate of 30,582 bushels for 1849. Rye, barley, and buckwheat all show significant increases in the amount of production. Statistics on other farm products indicate that butter and

²²*Pioneer*, April 25, May 8, 1855.

²³Isaac Atwater, *History of the City of Minneapolis*, 70 (New York, 1893); J. W. Bond, *Minnesota and Its Resources*, 167 (New York, 1853).

²⁴Hill, in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8:276; Edward Van Dyke Robinson, *Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota*, 45 (Minneapolis, 1915).

cheese were produced chiefly for local needs. Although 2,957,673 pounds of butter were produced in 1859, only 3,386 pounds were sold outside the territory.²⁵

Until after 1860 most of the live stock used in the Northwest was imported, but the expansion in farming made it possible for the farmers to raise their own herds. Merchants in St. Peter purchased about 282,000 pounds of pork from local farmers in 1860, according to estimates given in the *St. Peter Statesman*. These computations were viewed triumphantly with the comment "Only two years ago we were purchasing most of our pork from neighboring States."²⁶

Experiments in raising fruits were made during the territorial period and in the early years of statehood. A visitor near Stillwater in 1849 reports that the apple trees of a small orchard recently planted were bearing leaves. Peach trees had also been planted, but these were killed by the severe winter. In 1859 grapes were planted at St. Paul in a structure with walls and roof made entirely of glass. A dozen choice varieties, which bore a few clusters by December, 1860, were raised. In the horticultural department at the state fair of 1860 crab apples, strawberries, and Isabella and catawba grapes, all produced in Minnesota, were displayed.²⁷

To the pioneer housewife fell the task of appeasing the appetites of frontiersmen. Quantity was emphasized more than variety, although the enterprising cook often added tasty delicacies to the main fare. Johnny cake baked on a smooth board in front of the fireplace was popular in many cabins. The supply of corn generally lasted longer than that of wheat, and white bread and biscuits were con-

²⁵ *United States Census*, 1860, *Agriculture*, xxix, xxxiii, xlix, lxxv, lxxix.

²⁶ *St. Peter Statesman*, quoted in *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:73 (January, 1861).

²⁷ *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:47 (December, 1860).

sidered delicacies. The preparation of hominy required some skill on the part of the cook. Shelled corn was put in a large kettle and soaked in lye until the hulls were loosened and removed. Many changes of water were required in the process. The laborious process of home preparation was made unnecessary for St. Paul women when a special machine for preparing hominy was installed at a local mill. "Many a housekeeper will thank Mr. Nobles for his enterprise," declared a writer for the *Pioneer*, in praising the mill owner.²⁸

Oysters were a delicacy that many settlers, especially those from New England, enjoyed. Canned cove oysters and occasionally fresh oysters that had been frozen were shipped to the territory. Artificial oysters were prepared by mixing a pint of grated green corn with a well-beaten egg, a cup of flour, a half cup of butter, and some salt and pepper. The resulting batter was dropped in tiny spoonfuls into a pan filled with hot fat and fried. Several substitutes for coffee were devised by ingenious cooks. A settler in Fillmore County recalls that "Mother made coffee from corn meal crusts that would skin Postum three ways for Sunday." Another housekeeper made coffee from potato chips sliced thin and browned in the oven. Parched rye was also used in place of coffee.²⁹

Pastry was an important item on the frontier menu; many settlers from New England were accustomed to eating pie at every meal. Dried fruit and berries made excellent fillings. Genuine mince meat was a special treat. A local imitation of it consisted of pumpkin soaked in vinegar with dried wild grapes serving for raisins. Apple pie melon was grown on some farms near St. Cloud and, according to Jane Grey Swisshelm, it gave the appearance if not the flavor of the apple. Potatoes soaked in vinegar

²⁸*Pioneer*, August 6, 1855.

²⁹*Pioneer*, March 20, 1850; Morris, *Old Rail Fence Corners*, 71, 115, 117, 244.

were also said to produce an imitation of apple filling. Preserves were made from melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, and the various fruits.³⁰ A curious recipe for a substitute for honey that would almost "cheat the bees themselves" included four pounds of loaf sugar, one and a fourth pounds of wax honey, a quart of water, a large spoonful of gum arabic, and a teaspoonful of cream of tartar. These ingredients were boiled fifteen minutes.³¹

The food upon which poor families subsisted was often limited to corn bread, pork, and a small amount of coffee or tea. The editor of the *Pioneer* investigated conditions among the laboring classes in 1857 to determine whether they were prepared for the winter. He found many dwellings supplied with flour, potatoes, and other provisions.³² Conditions were less favorable in the following years, as "hard times" caused by the nation-wide panic of 1857 spread to the frontier. The overseer of the poor for Ramsey County in 1859 recorded an increased number of applications for relief in the spring of that year. "We have passed through more than 18 months of unparalle[led] financial difficulties and are now at the end of the second winter of great distress," he wrote in his report to the board of commissioners for Ramsey County. "Labor has been almost entirely suspended and the resources of the working man have been completely exhausted." Flour, pork, and wood were distributed to sixty-five families. One family alone received three hundred and fifty pounds of flour and seventy pounds of pork. The expense for the support of a family of six, including the purchase of wood for fuel, was estimated at about \$1.70 a week.³³

³⁰ Marion D. Shutter, ed., *History of Minneapolis*, 1: 665 (Chicago, 1923); Morris, *Old Rail Fence Corners*, 37; Atwater, *History of Minneapolis*, 68, 72.

³¹ *Minnesota Beacon* (Wasioja), August 1, 1860.

³² *Pioneer*, October 27, 1857.

³³ Board of Commissioners of Ramsey County, "Minutes," 1858-1860, p. 203. These manuscript records are in the auditor's office, in the Ramsey County Courthouse.

Simple fare was abandoned for holiday festivities. The first Thanksgiving in the territory was celebrated in 1850. On that occasion a settler in Minneapolis enjoyed a dinner that included stewed cove oysters, boiled vegetables, baked pork and beans, cranberries, mince and cranberry pies, cheese, and nuts. In 1851 turkeys were purchased for Christmas dinners in St. Paul at \$1.50 and \$2.00 each. Much of the poultry served at this time was brought up from Iowa and Illinois on sleighs.³⁴

A meal served in "sumptuous elegance" by the ladies of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in 1851 was said to provide "all the substantials of a good supper." The menu included chickens, frosted hams, turkeys, lobsters, oysters, sardines, pastries, jellies, pecans, buffalo tongues, and ice cream "made without freezing." St. Paul housekeepers did not have to depend entirely on their own culinary skill, for in February, 1850, the Eagle Bakery of St. Paul advertised fruit, pound, and fancy cakes baked in New York and eastern styles. A few months later another St. Paul bakery offered for sale bread, butter crackers, Boston crackers, and all kinds of cakes and candies. In 1854 a restaurant in that city advertised that it would serve refreshments for cotillion parties. Thus the burden of housekeeping was lightened for city dwellers.³⁵

Two roast pigs, eggs, and beefsteak were served for a breakfast in the home of Pierre Bottineau at St. Anthony in 1853. Many kinds of meat, including boiled ham, beef, elk, duck, swan, and buffalo with prairie turnip sauce, were served on the Fourth of July in 1851 at Traverse des Sioux to the white officials who were gathered there for the treaty negotiations then under way. Wild potatoes, wild beans, wild peas, and a French dessert completed the meal.³⁶

³⁴Atwater, *History of Minneapolis*, 68; *Pioneer*, December 25, 1851.

³⁵*Pioneer*, February 20, May 9, 1850; December 25, 1851; August 10, 1854; *St. Anthony Express*, May 31, 1851.

³⁶Hazard Stevens, *Life of Isaac Stevens*, 311 (Boston, 1900); William G. Le Duc, *Minnesota Yearbook for 1852*, 28 (St. Paul, 1853).

The women who moved into the Minnesota country probably found the preparation of wild foods and game a difficult task. Many of them already knew how to make preserves, pickles, and jam. If one type of provisions on the pantry shelf was exhausted, the cook was often compelled to wait until spring for a new supply. Sometimes a crisis was met by appealing to friends and neighbors. An ambitious young woman in St. Paul, while preparing for a party in early spring, canvassed the neighborhood looking for white sugar with which to make a cake. By working under such handicaps, Minnesota pioneer women adapted their culinary skill to frontier conditions.

EVADENE A. BURRIS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

THE FRONTIER PRESS OF MINNESOTA

As the spokesman for the editors of Minnesota's newspapers, permit me to congratulate the authorities of our great state university upon launching this series of convocations.¹ We of the press welcome the opportunity to join with you in honoring the pioneers who laid the foundations of the North Star State. We appreciate the compliment that you pay our profession in receiving us as the guests of honor at the first of these convocations. May we infer that such recognition carries the implication that educators still salute the "power of the press"? Or is it a recognition of the close bond between the editor and the educator, the press and the school, in the building of the state and in rendering unselfish service to society?

In June, 1927, the National Editorial Association, holding its annual convention in Los Angeles, at my suggestion sent to the members of the National Education Association, meeting the same week in Philadelphia, a greeting that read in part:

With memberships directing two vitally important unifying agencies in our country's life — the press and the school — with common interests and aims, with common responsibilities in moulding public opinion and in shaping the mind of the youth of today for leadership tomorrow that challenge our best effort, we express the hope that the two N.E.A.'s will in the future cultivate a closer acquaintance and coöperation.

Shortly after drafting this message I had an experience that caused me to doubt the editor's right to consider him-

¹ This address was presented by Mr. Roe at a convocation held at Northrop Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the University of Minnesota on October 26. It commemorated the Minnesota Diamond Jubilee and was the first of a series of annual convocations to be devoted to the contributions of various professional groups to the development of the state. On this occasion the contribution of Minnesota's pioneer editors and their newspapers to the building of the state was emphasized. *Ed.*

self an educator. I was introduced to the Rotary Club of Portland, Oregon, as an "educator." The introducer, detecting that he had made what we editors would call a typographical error, proceeded to make a correction. "I beg your pardon," he said, "this gentleman is not an educator. He is an editor." The salvo of laughter that greeted the apology demonstrated to an editor who for over twenty years has enjoyed daily contacts with educators in a college community that the two classifications are not identical.

Let it be noted, however, that one of Minnesota's pioneer editors, Russell H. Conwell, achieved fame and distinction as an educator. Following a brief career as a pioneer editor in Minnesota in the sixties, Conwell went east, founded Temple University in Philadelphia, and acquired nationwide fame as an author, educator, and lecturer. His famous lecture, "Acres of Diamonds," was reputed to have been delivered a greater number of times than any other lecture—on more than 5,700 occasions, in all sections of the United States. Conwell, who in his youth waged a bitter struggle to get an education, unselfishly devoted all the receipts from this lecture to helping more than three thousand young men through college—a striking example of the spirit of unselfish service to constituents, community, and state which is characteristic of the editor and the educator who live up to the highest ideals of their professions.

In February, 1867, as editor of the *Minneapolis Chronicle*, Conwell was one of the thirty-eight pioneer editors who assembled in St. Paul and organized the Minnesota Editorial Association. Fifty years later, when the association celebrated its golden jubilee and marked a half century of service to the building of the state, Conwell was present as one of the eight surviving charter members, all of whom were well-known figures in Minnesota's newspaper hall of fame. The others were Captain Henry A. Castle of St. Paul, F. E. DuToit of Chaska, J. C. Devereaux of St. Paul,

W. B. Mitchell of St. Cloud, Granville S. Pease of Anoka, Fred L. Smith of Minneapolis, and Irving Todd of Hastings. Captain Castle prepared for the golden jubilee an illuminating historical paper, which contained the following tribute to the charter members:²

You need not be ashamed of your founders. Fortunate as Minnesota has been in the character of her pioneers as represented in all walks of business, profession, and achievement, the editorial organization will hold rank with the highest, and to these men is due not only the subsequent success of the association, but a large share of the wonderful progress which has been made by the state, educationally, financially, industrially, and in every other creditable aspect, during the past half century.

In the lecture, "Acres of Diamonds," Conwell extolled the opportunities offered to citizens of our great state, with its lavish resources of soil and minerals and timber and rivers and lakes. For evidence of how ably, aggressively, and persistently the editors of Minnesota have preached through their news and editorial columns the same theme, we need but ask the historian in this diamond jubilee year to search through the files of Minnesota newspapers in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. In its editors, our state has been blessed with as loyal and devoted a band of "boosters" and builders as has any state in the Union—the golden state of California not excepted. Indian raids, grasshopper plagues that devastated growing crops, frigid winters, blizzards that at times crippled not only all avenues of transportation but our Michael Dowlings as well, financial panics and depressions that temporarily brought hard times—none of these trials and tribulations could quench the indomitable spirit of the pioneer nor the optimism of the editor. Both continued to predict a bright future for the citizen who cast his lot with the residents of the North Star State!

² This paper was read on February 17, 1916, in Castle's absence, by the present writer, in his official capacity as secretary of the Minnesota Editorial Association.

Those who were discouraged by the temporary distress and setbacks caused by these infrequent visitations, and who were tempted to follow the example of Al Hafed in the Persian fable and seek their fortunes elsewhere, were admonished by the press of the state to seek the "acres of diamonds" to be found right here at home in Minnesota. We do well to pause in this diamond jubilee year to honor the builders of our state—these "Giants in the Earth."

We cannot here embark on a history of Minnesota journalism or single out the many members of the newspaper fraternity in this state who richly deserve recognition, and we can make only passing reference to the outstanding achievements of Minnesota editors in fields of service other than journalism. The roll call of newspaper men who have won distinction and have made a genuine contribution to the state in public office would be long and would contain names enshrined in the chronicles of the state. In proportion to its numerical strength, the profession of journalism in this state has furnished more than its share of representatives who have graced the governor's chair, filled other state offices, provided leadership in the halls of Congress and of the state legislature, and served on state commissions. We who are privates in the ranks of Minnesota journalism may be pardoned for pointing with some degree of pride to that record of public service.

A study of the newspaper record of Minnesota's territorial days reveals that the life of a newspaper was then perhaps even more precarious than it is today, when increased costs, economic depression, and NRA codes are decimating our newspaper population through mergers, consolidations, and suspensions.³ During the territorial period, from 1849 to 1858, about ninety newspapers were

³The writer wishes to acknowledge the services of members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, especially Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, head of the newspaper department, in supplying much of the material relating to the early history of the Minnesota press.

established, the majority of which had a brief existence. Twelve newspapers of the pioneer period have survived to the present day. These papers were launched in a time when the population was small, subscribers were few in number, advertising volume was light, and cash was scarcer than it is today. Several were established before the panic of 1857 struck the struggling territory, and they withstood that shock. The roll call of the twelve oldest newspapers in Minnesota, with the dates when they were established, follows: *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, 1849; *Minnehaha*, 1855; *Winona Republican-Herald*, 1855; *Chatfield News*, 1856; *Hastings Gazette*, 1856; *Hokah Chief*, 1856; *Stillwater Post-Messenger*, 1856; *Mantorville Express*, 1857; *Monticello Times*, 1857; *Red Wing Republican*, 1857; *St. Cloud Daily Times and Daily Journal-Press*, 1857; and *Wabasha County Herald-Standard*, 1857.

It is interesting to note that, in addition to the twelve Minnesota newspapers that qualify for the diamond jubilee group, there are twenty-five surviving newspapers that were established between 1859 and 1869, fifty-two that were established in the seventies, and thirty-four established between 1880 and 1883 that have celebrated their golden anniversaries. The astonishing total of a hundred and twenty-three newspapers that can boast more than half a century of service is thus credited to Minnesota. In view of the fact that there are in the United States only about a hundred and sixty newspapers that have passed the century mark, this is truly a remarkable record for a state as young as ours. It is doubtful if any other business can submit a better endurance record. Bear in mind, please, that in this country the institutions that can boast a hundred years of life are considered venerable indeed. And our own state is but seventy-five years young. What a phenomenal record of growth, expansion, and longevity the newspapers of Minnesota have made in that period! Mark

you, there are editors in this audience who are older than Minnesota—and yet these octogenarians consider themselves young.

The newspapers that were established in the decade following Minnesota's admission to the Union also deserve recognition. The list includes the following newspapers that are still being published: *Mankato Free Press*, 1859; *Rochester Post-Bulletin*, 1859; *Taylor's Falls Journal*, 1860; *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska, 1861; *Lake City Graphic-Republican*, 1861; *Preston Times*, 1861; *Preston Republican*, 1861; *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*, 1861; *Owatonna Journal-Chronicle*, 1863; *Waseca Journal*, 1863; *Anoka County Union* of Anoka, 1865; *Caledonia Journal*, 1865; *Anoka Herald*, 1866; *North-Western Chronicle* of St. Paul, 1866; *Dodge County Republican* of Kasson, 1867; *Minneapolis Tribune*, 1867; *Der Wanderer* of St. Paul, 1867; *Sauk Centre Herald*, 1867; *Alexandria Citizen-News*, 1868; *Mower County News* of Austin, 1868; *St. Cloud Sentinel*, 1868; *St. Paul Dispatch*, 1868; *Blue Earth Post*, 1869; *Duluth News-Tribune*, 1869; and *Redwood Gazette* of Redwood Falls, 1869.

Minnesota newspapers that were established in the seventies and are published today follow: *Jackson Republic*, 1870; *Stillwater Gazette*, 1870; *Winnebago Enterprise*, 1870; *Madelia Times-Messenger*, 1871; *Willmar Gazette*, 1871; *Windom Reporter*, 1871; *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea, 1872; *Brainerd Tribune*, 1872; *Delano Eagle*, 1872; *Detroit Record* of Detroit Lakes, 1872; *Sherburne County Star-News* of Elk River, 1872; *Henderson Independent*, 1872; *Independent Press* of Madison, 1872; *Moorhead Daily News*, 1872; *Olivia Times*, 1872; *Worthington Globe*, 1872; *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*, 1873; *Glencoe Enterprise*, 1873; *Janesville Argus*, 1873; *Rock County Herald* of Luverne, 1873; *Marshall Daily Messenger*, 1873; *North Star* of Cambridge, 1874; *Fairmont Daily*

Sentinel, 1874; *Daily People's Press* of Owatonna, 1874; *Plainview News*, 1874; *West Saint Paul Times*, 1874; *LeRoy Independent*, 1875; *Minneapolis Journal*, 1875; *Rush City Post*, 1875; *Cannon Falls Beacon*, 1876; *Howard Lake Herald*, 1876; *Litchfield Independent*, 1876; *Northfield News*, 1876; *Princeton Union*, 1876; *Crookston Daily Times*, 1877; *Mazeppa Journal*, 1877; *Montevideo News*, 1877; *Morris Tribune*, 1877; *New Ulm Review*, 1877; *Inter-County Press* of St. Charles, 1877; *Minnesota Stats Tidning* of St. Paul, 1877; *Waseca Herald*, 1877; *Canby News and Canby Press*, 1878; *Wadena Pioneer Journal*, 1878; *Bird Island Union*, 1879; *Caledonia Argus*, 1879; *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake, 1879; *Fulda Free Press*, 1879; *Le Sueur News-Herald*, 1879; *Minneapolis Spectator*, 1879; *Pipestone County Star* of Pipestone, 1879; and *Tracy Herald-Headlight*, 1879.

Among other Minnesota newspapers that have been published for a half century or more are the *Norman County Index* of Ada, the *Appleton Press*, the *Atwater Republican Press*, the *Hutchinson Leader*, the *Lake Benton News*, the *Mankato Ledger*, the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch*, the *Spring Valley Tribune*, and the *Warren Sheaf*, established in 1880; the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* and the *Fergus Falls Ugeblad*, established in 1881; the *Marshall County Banner* of Argyle, the *Belle Plaine Herald*, the *Grand Meadow Record and Dexter News*, the *Kittson County Enterprise* of Hallock, the *Houston Signal*, the *Lake Crystal Tribune*, the *Melrose Beacon*, the *Park Rapids Enterprise*, the *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin*, the *St. Hilaire Spectator*, the *Tyler Journal*, and the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom, established in 1882; and the *Aitkin Independent Age*, the *Duluth Herald*, the *Edgerton Enterprise*, the *Graceville Enterprise*, the *Granite Falls Tribune*, the *Lakefield Standard*, the *Long Prairie Leader*, the *Svenska Amerikanska Posten* of Minneapolis, the *Morris Sun*, the *Red Lake Falls*

Gazette, and the *St. Paul Herald*, established exactly fifty years ago, in 1883.

The introduction of the press in Minnesota followed closely upon the organization of the territory. In April, 1849, James Madison Goodhue, editor of a paper in Grant County, Wisconsin, packed his equipment and boarded a steamboat for St. Paul. He arrived in the midst of a bluster, uncomfortable spring, and with characteristic audacity at once set up shop in the crudest of shelters. There, on April 28, 1849, he issued the first number of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the earliest newspaper published in Minnesota. For three years he led the way in advertising Minnesota to the rest of the world and in enlivening Minnesota affairs with his pungent remarks on the rapidly changing political, social, and economic situation. His death in 1852 removed from the Minnesota scene a personality that had influenced to a marked degree the development of the territory.

Within a few weeks of the appearance of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, two other papers were established in St. Paul, the *Minnesota Chronicle* and the *Minnesota Register*, which, however, soon consolidated. In 1850 two more newspapers appeared in the territorial capital. One of these, the *Dakota Friend*, was a missionary paper, published partly in the Dakota language. The next year, two additional papers were established in St. Paul; and in St. Anthony, the *Express*, the first paper in Minnesota outside of St. Paul, began publication. Thus in 1851, when the entire population of Minnesota was only a little more than five thousand and that of St. Paul was only slightly over a thousand, five newspapers were being published regularly. It required an optimistic faith in the future to bring forth such ventures in a raw wilderness.

It was natural that the first newspapers in the territory should have appeared in the territorial capital. Settlers were pouring in, but by far the greater portion of the land

of Minnesota still belonged to the Indians. Two highly important treaties negotiated with the Indians in the summer of 1851 extinguished the Indian title to much of the interior of Minnesota west of the Mississippi River. The rush of settlement began between 1852 and 1854, and the next half-dozen years were a period of delirious boom and speculation. Towns and villages appeared by scores, and nearly every one of them had a newspaper. The earliest papers were established in towns along the rivers—the Mississippi and the St. Croix—in 1854. At Winona the *Argus* was started in September, and at Stillwater, on October 23, the first issue of the *St. Croix Union* appeared. In 1855 newspapers were established at such scattered points as Shakopee and St. Peter on the Minnesota River, Sauk Rapids on the Mississippi above St. Anthony, and Red Wing, Wabasha, Winona, and Brownsville on the Mississippi below St. Paul.

The spread of the newspaper press in Minnesota thereafter was rapid. In 1856 and 1857 a host of papers were established in the interior, where rough roads and trails had been laid out to new settlements struggling for existence in the wilderness. As a result of the panic of 1857 the publication of many of the territorial papers abruptly ended, but that mattered little. New papers appeared almost at once. By the end of the territorial period no fewer than eighty-nine newspapers had been established in Minnesota. Among them were five daily papers, four that began publication at St. Paul in 1854, and one, the *Falls Evening News* of St. Anthony, that was established in the autumn of 1857.

These territorial newspapers included not only English papers, but a sprinkling of newspapers published in alien tongues as well. In the middle fifties there began a heavy immigration of foreign-born people into Minnesota. A reflection of that movement is seen in the establishment at St. Paul in 1855 of the *Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung* and,

two years later, of the Norwegian *Folkets Röst*, and of the Swedish *Minnesota Posten* at Red Wing. The *Minneapolis Tidende* is another foreign-language newspaper that deserves to be mentioned here. As the successor to *Emigranten*, the first Norwegian newspaper in the United States to attain any degree of permanency, it traces its lineage back to the early fifties, though it had its beginnings in the neighboring state of Wisconsin.

These ventures in pioneer journalism served their purpose well. They were established in the full blush of frontier optimism. Far and wide they spread the gospel of Minnesota's advantages in soil, resources, and opportunity. They were invaluable to the settler of the frontier, for communication was uncertain and slow, and magazines and books were few and costly. The local newspapers, usually established by ambitious town proprietors or by ardent political partisans, constituted the settler's principal source of information about the rest of the world. They told him what his neighbors were doing; they led him along his political pathway; they brought him current literature, which ranged from doggerel verse to the best writing of the time in America; and they advised him of unexploited opportunities in lands, town sites, goods, or produce. In their advertisements as well as in their editorial columns they reflected the economic life of the times. Many of their editors were "personal journalists" of outstanding character, who contributed to the leadership of the territory and the young state and who, through their personalities, added flavor to the social and intellectual life of the frontier.

Many of these papers were established for a single purpose, and they adhered diligently to that purpose. Thus the *Dakota Friend* sought the spiritual betterment of the Sioux. In 1851 a new kind of paper appeared in St. Paul when the *Watab Reveille* of Benton County was established. Actually the paper was printed, not at Watab, but

in St. Paul. The purpose of the editor and proprietor in establishing it was to obtain lucrative contracts for the official printing of the territory. Upon his failure to do this, the paper was suspended. Many early Minnesota newspapers were established by the owners of town sites, for the purpose of advertising the lands offered for sale. In 1856 Ignatius Donnelly came to Minnesota and helped to found the village of Nininger in Dakota County. To promote settlement in the infant city he established the *Emigrant Aid Journal*, the first issue of which was printed in Philadelphia. The land offices of Minnesota Territory offered rich opportunities for newspaper publishers to print the large amount of legal advertising necessitated by the sale of government lands. This circumstance led to the establishment of such publications as the *Sauk Rapids Frontierman*, begun in 1855 by officers of the United States land office at Sauk Rapids; the *Chatfield Democrat*, established in 1856 by the officials of the land office at Chatfield; and the *North Shore Advocate*, begun in 1857 at the land office at Buchanan in St. Louis County. Political advancement was a frequent reason for the establishment of a newspaper, for usually the party that had the best-edited newspapers won the elections.

The buildings that housed these pioneer newspapers were often rough shelters — makeshifts, rude shacks, ramshackle barns. When Goodhue arrived in St. Paul he set up his office in a building which he described as being as "open as a corn-rick." "Not that we would find fault with the pigs," he complained, "for it is all owing to their bringing up; but really our equanimity is somewhat ruffled, if our chair is not jostled by the movements of their hard backs under our loose floor." Many other printing presses were set up under conditions little more encouraging.

From the mechanical point of view, publishing a newspaper in territorial Minnesota was no mean task. Type

had to be set by hand with infinite care, and printing was done on little hand presses of the Washington or acorn type. The nearest type foundry was at Chicago, and supplies of paper and ink were even more remote. All such materials had to be brought to Minnesota during the summer months, for freight charges on materials brought overland by team during the hard Minnesota winters were almost prohibitive. As a consequence, Minnesota newspaper proprietors had to invest considerable capital to provide publication materials for the year. In 1858 Jane Grey Swisshelm stated that the press on which she printed the *St. Cloud Visiter* cost eight hundred dollars. She estimated that the total expenditures, exclusive of the press, had amounted to over twenty-five hundred dollars and that the total receipts of the paper were only about four hundred and fifty dollars. On such shoe-string speculation was Minnesota's press established. It is little wonder that most newspapers in territorial Minnesota were published weekly, or less frequently than that.

What happened to these Minnesota newspapers of the fifties? Most of them passed out of existence. The exigencies of frontier finance were too severe for them. A few, however, have survived to the present day. The *Minnesota Pioneer*, Minnesota's first newspaper, is today the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. So far as is known, it has never missed an issue. The *Winona Republican*, established in 1855, is still being published under the name *Republican-Herald*. In the following year three papers that are still appearing made their debuts: the *Stillwater Messenger*, known today as the *Post-Messenger*; the *Chatfield Democrat*, now called the *News*; and the *Hokah Chief*, which is still in existence despite the fact that at times publication has been suspended. In 1857 the *Red Wing Republican*, the *Mantorville Express*, the *Monticello Times*, the *Hastings Gazette*, and the *Wabasha County Herald-Standard*—

originally known as the *Wabashaw County Herald*—were established. All are still being published. In the same year a fiery little abolitionist named Jane Grey Swisshelm started the *St. Cloud Visiter*. The name was successively changed to *St. Cloud Democrat*, *Journal*, and *Journal-Press*, but the tradition was carried on. In 1929 the paper was absorbed by the *St. Cloud Daily Times*, and today it is being issued as the *St. Cloud Daily Times and Daily Journal-Press*. In 1855 the *Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung*, the first German paper in Minnesota, was established. Although there have been temporary suspensions of publication and changes in name, the paper still exists. Today it is known as the *Minnehaha*.

The men, and women too, who laid these foundations for the Minnesota press were equal to their task. The glowing promise of the frontier brought here the young, the able, the adventurous, and the ambitious of older settlements, as well as the decrepit, the poverty-stricken, and the ne'er-do-wells. It was the spirit of adventure that brought Goodhue to Minnesota. For his brilliant gift of personal journalism, he has been called the James Gordon Bennett of the West. The urge of the West brought to Minnesota Earle S. Goodrich, editor of the *St. Paul Pioneer* from 1854 to 1862, who was known as the "gentleman journalist" of Minnesota. In 1854 the promise of adventure and work brought to the territory perhaps the strangest character among Minnesota journalists—Sam K. Whiting, sailor, Arctic explorer, and newspaper man, who edited the *Winona Argus* and in 1855 established the *Winona Republican*. In 1856 Donnelly, the stormy petrel of Minnesota politics for fifty years, radical, erratic, but gifted, began his Minnesota newspaper career as editor of the *Emigrant Aid Journal*. In 1857 Mrs. Swisshelm left her home in Pittsburgh, where, as editor of the *Saturday Visiter*, she had been for ten years an active and bitter foe of slavery. She

came to Minnesota and soon established the *St. Cloud Visiter*. Wide publicity came to her when she engaged in a fiery quarrel with a leading citizen of St. Cloud, as a result of which her press was thrown into the Mississippi River and she was threatened with mob action.

Numerous other journalists removed to Minnesota during the fifties and gained fame during the stirring years before the Civil War. Foremost among them was Joseph A. Wheelock, who arrived in 1850. From 1854 to 1858 he was editor of the *St. Paul Advertiser*; he became in 1861 editor of the *St. Paul Press*, and, after its consolidation with the *Pioneer* in 1875, of the *Pioneer Press*. For over fifty years he stood head and shoulders above the body of Minnesota editors, and rightfully earned the title of "Dean of Minnesota Journalists." Outstanding also was David Blakely, who entered the journalistic field as editor of the *Bancroft Pioneer* and the *Rochester City Post* in the fifties. He served as secretary of state in Minnesota during most of the Civil War period. In the late sixties he became editor and owner of the *Chicago Post*, but in the seventies he returned to Minnesota as editor of the *Pioneer*. In 1877 he became editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, and under his management the paper grew rapidly.

Still another outstanding member of the journalistic fraternity in Minnesota during the fifties was William A. Croffut, who was initiated into Minnesota journalism in 1856 as reporter for Thomas N. Newson's paper, the *Saint Paul Daily Times*. His salary was said to have been eight dollars a week. In September, 1857, Croffut was one of the partners who established the *Falls Evening News*. During the Civil War he achieved recognition as a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*. For a time after the war he edited a paper in Connecticut and eventually, in 1871, he returned to Minnesota as editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. In 1874 he returned to New York and,

after some years as editorial writer for the *New York Graphic*, he joined the staff of the *New York Daily Tribune*, then under the management of Whitelaw Reid. Subsequently Croffut became editor of the *Washington Daily Post*. He gained widespread recognition as an author.

This briefly, is the history of the Minnesota press during the territorial period. That it exerted a profound influence on Minnesota journalism during the years that have followed is without question. How great that influence is, we cannot say. The men and women who established the territorial papers came to Minnesota when life was rough; yet they brought here a fine culture. Many of them were college graduates—men from Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and other schools. Many of them, however, were men of the frontier—products of the same rough civilization in which they lived. The chivalry of pre-Civil War days and the sharply defined convictions that the pioneer journalists held on questions of the day may be glimpsed in the crowded columns of early Minnesota newspapers. These editors set up high ideals of honesty, intelligence, adherence to principles, and service to the citizenry of the state and country.

On the foundations of Minnesota journalism laid in the fifties, a newspaper structure has been built that now includes over five hundred publications. The increase in the number of newspapers, their growth in circulation and influence, and their development in size and stability have paralleled the expansion of the state. Between 1850 and 1860 the population of Minnesota increased at the phenomenal rate of 2,730 per cent. From a community of 6,000 people in 1850, Minnesota advanced to 172,000 in 1860, to 439,000 in 1870, and to 780,000 in 1880. The state's population passed the million mark in 1885 and the two-million mark in 1910, and today it stands at over two and a half million. Minnesota's newspapers have met the needs occasioned by this rapid expansion.

Who can measure the contribution of the newspapers to the building of the state during these seventy-five eventful years of development and growth? In making an appraisal it would be more appropriate for some chronicler who is not a member of the newspaper profession to speak. To one thing we who are members of this profession can testify—that no other force touches Minnesota life in so many of its phases.

"There are three estates in Parliament," declared Edmund Burke, the peerless orator, in addressing the House of Commons, "but in the reporter's gallery yonder there sits a Fourth Estate more important far than they all." The same sentiment was expressed by Lincoln in these graphic words: "In this and like communities public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed. Consequently he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions." Dr. John H. Finley, noted educator, college and university president, now editor of America's greatest newspaper, the *New York Times*, has said: "Journalists are Historians of the Present Tense. . . . With conscientiousness and infinite pains their daily endeavor is to record and interpret history at the moment of its making. They deserve to be classed as historians, as educators."

Regarding the value of the newspaper to the historian, Lucy Salmon, author of *The Newspaper and the Historian*, testifies:

For this study of normal life the newspaper,—abnormal as it itself may seem with flaring headlines and blurred pages of illustrated advertisements, with all of its limitations, its inaccuracies, its unworthy representatives, its lack of proportion, its many temptations—not always resisted—to throw prismatic colors instead of the white light of truth on its accounts of the day, the periodical press still remains the most important single source the historian has at his command for the reconstruction of the life of the past three centuries.

Striking evidence of the value of newspaper files is to be found in the comprehensive, four-volume *History of Minnesota* by William Watts Folwell, the first president of the University of Minnesota, whose fruitful life contributed so much to the building of our commonwealth. Numerous citations to Minnesota newspapers in this work indicate a liberal use of the priceless newspaper collection preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Someone has said that the schools are the great agency for educating people and that the newspapers are the great agency for keeping them educated; that the newspapers reach more people and influence more lives than all the schools and colleges combined. To what extent newspaper-reading colors the opinions of the American people and shapes public sentiment it is difficult to say. The result is an intangible quantity that defies measurement. Test it in your own case and discover how your point of view regarding public questions and events is shaped by what you read in your favorite newspaper. How many times one hears the significant remark: "I see by the paper!" Will Rogers is not the only person who has to confess that "all I know is what I read in the paper."

Upon the press, then, rests a tremendous responsibility. That responsibility carries with it a challenge to the gentlemen of the press—a challenge expressed by Henry Russell Spencer as follows:

Here is a special responsibility resting on the press, and on you journalists who produce the daily information and suggestion for Everyman's education. You must make of the press not a mere medium of merchandise-advertisement, not a mere purveying to the people of what they want, sensation and amusement, "bread and circuses," which is mere blind leadership of the blind—but a public servant, a service of enlightenment and leadership, rendered by publicists. It is not only the journalists who must do this, readers must choose what is worth reading and reject the remainder; the public must support the publicists.

Today we salute the publicists of the past, the veterans of Minnesota's press, the pioneer editors who, in their day, faced their responsibility and made their contribution to the development of a great state. From them we accept the torch and in a rapidly changing world we carry on, facing the greater responsibility of the new day. We carry on in the spirit of this greeting and challenge voiced in 1916 by a pioneer editor in addressing the Minnesota Editorial Association:

Comrades, and companions of the Grand Army of Minnesota Journalism! Associates of a new generation and a new century in this splendid work! In the name of the founders of this association, we . . . confidently transmit to you, the labors which they and their compeers have thus far advanced.

With better facilities and higher opportunities, and richer encouragement, you succeed to the duties and rewards. That your success may be commensurate with these higher opportunities and richer rewards, is our fervent prayer.

HERMAN ROE

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN PIONEER MINNESOTA

When the Civil War began, 125 weekly newspapers had been founded in Minnesota.¹ They served to transmit news of the stirring events of the times to their readers, most of whom lived in rural districts and few of whom took daily papers. They were intensely loyal to the Union and published long news articles and editorials concerning the rising movement for secession in the southern states, as well as stories depicting the terrible treatment of the Negro by southern "gentlemen." This national political and governmental news, which occupied almost half of the news space of the average paper, was copied from other papers.² Sometimes there were difficulties. The *Hokah Chief* of November 27, 1860, announced that "We are without the Friday's mail, which is of great value to us in making up our news department. Until the river is sufficiently safe for crossing there will be no regularity in mail matter." When the other papers failed to arrive, the editor often merely postponed the date of publication in the hope that news would arrive, or he printed the same articles and advertisements twice or oftener in the same issue of his paper.

Editorial material occupied a larger proportion of the news space of the early Minnesota weekly newspaper than any other category except civic news—about one-fourth in 1860 and one-fifth from 1870 through 1890. Personal journalism was as characteristic of the small Minnesota

¹ Daniel S. B. Johnston, "Minnesota Journalism from 1858 to 1865," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 12: 183-262. The excellent collection of early Minnesota weekly newspapers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society was used in making this study.

² Irene B. Taeuber, "Changes in the Content and Presentation of Reading Material in Minnesota Weekly Newspapers, 1860-1929," in *Journalism Quarterly*, 9: 281-289 (September, 1932).

weekly as it was of the great eastern daily newspaper of the same period. The editor conceived it his function not only to print the news but also to guide his readers into the paths of right thinking, especially right political thinking. And, possessed of this crusading spirit, he spared no words in expressing his opinion of his opponents and their views. The following examples are fairly typical of the bitter, personal, mud-slinging editorials of the period.

The person who presumed to castigate the editor of this paper in last week's Evansville paper should have signed the effusion, "Damp-hool." If our paragraph in the premises was in bad taste, it was certainly with less discretion and in worse taste to give it even the slightly greater publicity that is implied in its reproduction in so obscure a publication as the Evansville *Sentinel*.³

The brainless correspondent who furnishes the great-nothing-sheet (*Times*) of Monticello, with Delano items, some of which are generally garbled from a previous issue of the *EAGLE*, talks about catching the "improvement fever." For the benefit of that correspondent's powerful intellect we will state that the *EAGLE* has no need of catching the "improvement fever," it makes steady progress in a *healthy* path of improvement.⁴

The early editor showed a decided tendency to combine moralizing with the reporting of crime news. The *Hokah Chief* of February 7, 1860, concludes a story of a Twin City crime copied from the *Minnesotian and Times* of St. Paul with the following lines:

We trust the authorities will take care of the little children of these drunken parents. How much they must have suffered, those little innocents, during the long and cold night! We have but little sympathy for the man or woman, of mature years, who becomes beastly intoxicated and suffers, but we have and the community have sympathy for the gaunt and half-starved and almost frozen little ones, who are made to suffer through no act of their own. No one but God can tell how much they endured from cold and hunger during the night the fatal blow was given to the mother, who now is beyond the reach of their calling.—We do hope, therefore, that they will be properly cared for by the proper authorities.

³ *Grant County Herald* (Elbow Lake), February 20, 1890.

⁴ *Wright County Eagle* (Delano), February 5, 1880.

The editor of the *Stillwater Messenger* of May 8, 1860, refused to publish the outstanding professional sports news item of the year, but instead gave his opinion of the performance in unmistakable terms.

SICKENING DETAILS. — A large majority of our papers come to us with sickening details, in display type, of the prize fight between the champion bullies of England and America — Heenan and Sayers. We have no taste for that kind of literature. The affair is a burning disgrace to the two governments, and we will not lumber our columns with a recital of the brutal collision. It is bad enough to make public the "mill" now going on at Charleston between the harmonious Democracy.

The early editor was generally just as subdued and matter-of-fact in reporting news items as he was emotional and exuberant in expressing his opinions editorially. The *Stillwater Messenger* of November 27, 1860, contains the following item concerning a shocking tragedy. The report stands in marked contrast to the "sob story" which would probably be written about the same occurrence today.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. — The Fort Wayne (Indiana) *Times* says that a most shocking tragedy occurred in Adams county, in that State, a few days previous. A woman about to churn butter, threw some boiling water in the churn, into which one of the children had, unnoticed by the mother, placed an infant, and it was instantly scalded to death. In her frenzy, the mother seized a chair and inflicted death upon the little girl. After realizing what she had done, she threw herself into the well and was drowned.

Approximately half the content of the early Minnesota paper was advertising, the major portion consisting of either patent medicine or legal advertisements. The latter was one of the main sources of income for newspapers in an age when money was so scarce that the editor often advertised that he would take apples, potatoes, cranberries, or other agricultural products in return for subscriptions. The patent medicine advertisements offer a strange contrast to the almost puritanical character of the news content. The quacks and nostrums advertised are numerous. In one

column on the second page of the *Sauk Centre Herald* of May 14, 1880, are advertised "Halliday's Blood Purifier"; "Salicylica, Immediate relief warranted. Permanent cure guaranteed. Now exclusively used by all celebrated Physicians of Europe and America"; "The Great Cause of Human Misery. Just Published in a Sealed Envelope. Price 6cts. The world-renowned author, in this admirable Lecture, clearly proves from his own experience that the awful consequences of Self-Abuse may be effectually removed without medicine"; "The Secret Monitor and Guide to Health. A Private Medical Treatise on the Diseases of the Urinary and Generative Organs," offered for sale at fifty cents by the Galenic Institute; and "Gray's Specific Medicine." Patent medicine advertising was often disguised as local editorial material. In the *Sauk Centre Herald* of February 3, 1870, the editor indorses "Dr. Roback's Pills and Bitters," recommends "Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders" for horses, and advises the use of "Johnson's Anodyne Liniment" for the ears.

From twenty-five to forty per cent of the reading material in the early papers consisted of magazine material—short stories, poems, recipes, sermons, and the like. The recipes furnish an interesting commentary on the general standard of living of the period. One learns, for instance, how to make an appetizing hash by seasoning cubes of boiled turnips with salt and lard. The short stories are of the type that one finds in *Godey's Lady's Book*, often ending with the tragic death of the young heroine who was too pure for this earth and so was taken to her heavenly home. There are many short essays similar to the following, which appears in the *Stillwater Messenger* of February 7, 1860.

LIFE.—Ah, there is a touching beauty in the radiant up-look of a girl just-crossing the limits of youth, and commencing her journey through the checkered sphere of womanhood! It is all dew-sparkle

and morning glory to the ardent, buoyant spirit, as she presses forward exulting in blissful anticipations. But the withering heat of the conflict of life creeps on; the dew drops exhale; the garlands of hope, shattered and dead, strew all the path; and too often near noon-tide, the clear brow and sweet smile are exchanged for the weary look of one longing for the evening rest—the twilight of the night.— Oh, may the good God give his sleep early unto these many.

The country weekly of the sixties and succeeding decades served as daily paper, magazine, and library to the Minnesota pioneer. In it the family found national news, pungent editorials, some local news, stories and poems, sermons, recipes, farm hints, and advertisements. The country newspaper has been an invaluable source for specific information regarding historical events, but it merits much more extensive study than it has yet received as a reflection of the fundamental attitudes and ideals, the general pattern of life, of the early Minnesota resident.

IRENE BARNES TAEUBER

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
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JAMES MOORE McCONNELL¹

James Moore McConnell was born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, on May 28, 1868, and died at his home at 77 Langford Park Place, St. Paul, on April 29, 1933, after an illness of nearly four months. His parents were William and Rebecca Moore McConnell. He was graduated from the Edinboro State Normal School in 1889 and engaged in the study of law at Warren, Pennsylvania, in 1890. In the same year he began his career in the field of education as a rural teacher in his native state.

He came to Minnesota in 1892 and taught in the Wilder Farm College, then located near Windom, until 1895, when he became superintendent of schools at Heron Lake. In 1893 he was married to Margaret Jeannette Graham of Kittanning, Pennsylvania. To them were born six children, three of whom died in early childhood. The three sons living are Harold Graham, deputy commissioner of the state banking department, St. Paul; James Eugene, department supervisor for the Investors Syndicate of Minneapolis; and John Ross, who is connected with the research department of the Dupont Manufacturing Company at Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. McConnell was superintendent of schools at Winnebago from 1900 to 1904, when he was elected to the superintendency at Mankato. In 1909 he was appointed to the chair of American history and government in the Mankato State Normal School. He was graduated from Carleton College at Northfield with the degree of bachelor of arts in the year 1910.

Mr. McConnell was appointed by Governor J. A. A. Burnquist in 1919 as state superintendent of public instruction. The legislature of that year created the state board

¹ Read at a meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society on October 9, 1933. *Ed.*



J. M. McConnell



of education, which appointed him state commissioner of education. This position he held at the time of his death.

Commissioner McConnell was a man with broad interests and extensive and important connections both within and without his profession. He was grand master of the Masonic Order for Minnesota in 1923, president of the Minnesota Education Association in 1908, and a member of the National Education Association and of Phi Delta Kappa fraternity. He was deeply interested in the Minnesota Historical Society and in the history of his adopted state. He became an annual member of this society in 1919 and five years later a life member. In 1924 he was elected to its executive council. He was the first president of the National Council of State Superintendents and Commissioners of Education. The following tribute comes from the present secretary of that organization and sets forth the esteem in which he was held by this distinguished group of educators:

The National Council of State Superintendents and Commissioners of Education pauses in its deliberation to pay its respect to the memory of Superintendent J. M. McConnell of Minnesota, who has passed away since the Minneapolis meeting this year. The Council recalls that Doctor McConnell was its first president and at all times has been a leader in the deliberations.

His friendliness, poise, sober and calm judgment, and depth of character are missed. Those of us who were privileged to enjoy his hospitality in that most interesting tour of the Arrowhead country will ever associate him with the development of a great program in a great north central state. Those of us who knew him as a neighbor will not soon forget the kindnesses shown. All of us have lost a comrade whom we respected and relied upon for his appreciation of vital values.

It is futile to attempt to add here to his fame or to throw light upon the qualities that distinguished Mr. McConnell among the great leaders in the field of public education of the present day. His contemporaries know and will never forget his contributions to this field and the personal characteristics back of these contributions. But history should

record them for the guidance and the inspiration of future generations.

For Commissioner McConnell, public office was a sacred trust. To him the headship of the public school system of this state carried with it a sense of personal responsibility which transcended in importance everything else in his life. He weighed every problem of education, even in the most remote and the smallest community, with thoroughness, with intelligence, and always with regard to the welfare of its children. Mr. McConnell had the judicial attitude toward all problems. He wanted facts. Having them, he knew how to interpret them sanely, constructively, fearlessly. He was keen to distinguish between fact and supposition and to use the latter only for what it was worth.

He knew how to meet and deal with people as he met them. He detested insincerity and was quick to detect it. Yet he was preëminently patient and fair. He admired frankness and was himself frank, sometimes almost to the point of bluntness. But he cured the sting with a kindly humor, keen and subtle, but never malicious. He never failed to make himself understood, and one never doubted that what he said he meant. In his relations with the state legislature he was especially fortunate because it was understood that he always knew the facts of a case and that he was presenting them without reserve, or misrepresentation, or fear of consequences. Mr. McConnell called forth the best there was in his department associates. He selected them with exceptional care, gave them specific fields of service and responsibility, supported them fearlessly, and demanded of them the same sense of responsibility for results that characterized his own daily life.

It is to be noted that Mr. McConnell was thrice chosen commissioner by the state board of education; that this board has had but one change in membership since it was created fourteen years ago; that the membership consists

of five persons from various walks of life—independent, capable of doing their own thinking, and habitually disposed to do so. Yet through the long, trying years of his association with the board, Mr. McConnell came with the respect, the confidence, the admiration, the friendship of its members, who suffered a sense of loss of leadership at his death which was personal and pathetic. “Here was a man. When comes such another?”

In closing, it is fitting to attempt an enumeration of the specific accomplishments of Commissioner McConnell's administration. During his fourteen years of service he completely and effectively reorganized the department of education, and brought about a more effective administration of school law. He succeeded in creating a rural division, in establishing teachers' institutes for the benefit of the rural schools, and in enlarging high school tuition facilities to provide a reasonable degree of educational opportunity for pupils residing in country districts. Mr. McConnell was really the author of the very effective teacher certification law of 1929. Under his leadership the courses of study for elementary and high schools have been written and revised from time to time, making this curriculum offering one of decided assistance to the schools of the state and attracting favorable attention and comment from other states. Under his guidance and encouragement a program of physical and health education has been widely promulgated and has become effective in producing healthier and better citizens, even in the smallest of rural schools. It was also under his leadership that a statistical division of the state department of education was established, making it possible to obtain accurate and usable information upon any important questions relating to public education. Perhaps Mr. McConnell's most significant work, as it relates to the teaching profession of this state, is to be found in the service he rendered in securing the passage of the

state-wide Teachers' Retirement Fund Act of 1931. It was his insight and his persistent effort that brought this act through the legislature, despite many adverse forces and misunderstandings.

Here is a record of great service. In future years, students of public education in this state will turn back to it and bless the name and the work of the man who brought about these results.

EUGENE M. PHILLIPS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ST. PAUL

SOME SOURCES FOR NORTHWEST HISTORY

THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER AND SPORTING MAGAZINE¹

The Christmas season was approaching in 1839 when Henry H. Sibley, the youthful agent of the American Fur Company at Mendota, made the following request of Ramsay Crooks, the president of his concern in New York: "Will you do me the favor to pay for and have forwarded to me from 1 Jan. the 'Spirit of the Times,' and the 'Turf Register & Sporting Magazine' . . . & charge amt. of subscription to each to my private a/c."² Thus subscriptions for two popular magazines reached the publishers, and doubtless the periodicals found their way each month to the fur-trading post on the upper Mississippi.

Sibley was not the first frontiersman residing in the upper Northwest to be a regular reader of the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*. This magazine, which began publication at Baltimore in 1829, was devoted particularly to horses. Sections were regularly given over to a racing calendar; owners could here register horses and their pedigrees; stable management, breeding, veterinary practices, and fox hunting were given due attention. Some space also was devoted to sports such as fishing and the hunting of wild game and birds. It was in this connection that the editor in an early issue called upon subscribers to contribute accounts of "sports and game in the far west." And they responded in surprising numbers. From St. Louis, Jefferson Barracks, Fort Dearborn, Fort Howard

¹ This is the first of a series of brief discussions of rare, unusual, or little-used sources for the history of Minnesota and the Northwest. *Ed.*

² The original of this letter, which is dated December 21, 1839, is in the Sibley Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. It is printed in Theodore C. Blegen, ed., *The Unfinished Autobiography of Henry Hastings Sibley*, 71 (Minneapolis, 1932).

on Green Bay, Kaskaskia in Illinois, Prairie du Chien, and various points on the upper Mississippi came letters to the editor discussing hunts, game, and related topics that might prove of interest to the sportsmen of the East. Most of the writers used pseudonyms or initials in signing their contributions, but several of them can be identified and it is obvious from the contents of the letters that most of them were army officers stationed at frontier posts.

Some interesting and unusual accounts of life on the middle-western frontier a century ago are to be found in these letters. They reveal that army officers who had spent their early years in the old South, where fox hunting was a favorite sport, often found that the pursuit of deer or wolves was an equally exciting diversion. Of special interest are the letters of Lieutenant John G. Furman of South Carolina, for he pictures the Chicago region much as it must have been at the opening of the city's "Century of Progress."³ From Fort Dearborn in the spring and summer of 1830 he wrote spirited accounts of wolf, deer, and fox hunts on the Illinois prairies, and of bird shooting in the swampy reaches that are now occupied by the metropolis of the Middle West. A district south of the fort he describes as a huntsman's paradise where "vast quantities of aquatic fowl congregate to feed. . . . Swan, geese, and brant, passing to and fro in clouds, keep up an incessant cackling: ducks of every kind, from the mallard and canvass-back, down to the tiny *water-witch* and *blue winged teal*, add their mite to the 'discord dire,' while hundreds of gulls hover gracefully over. . . . In April, myriads of plover and snipe take the place of the afore mentioned: still later,

³ Furman signed his contributions with his initials only, but he is identified in the *Turf Register* for February, 1831. He was graduated at West Point in 1827 and he died at Fort Dearborn in August, 1830. His letters appear in the issues for August and September, 1830, and February and June, 1831 (1: 595, 597, 2: 40-42, 286, 491-493). For a record of his military service see Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, 1: 441 (Washington, 1903).

great quantities of woodcock, grouse, and ortalans, make their appearance." The exploits of Captain Richard B. Mason, a Virginian stationed at Fort Crawford in the early thirties, are frequently mentioned in the *Turf Register*. "Great Shooting" by the captain is described by one who signs himself "A Hunter in the Prairie" in the issue for October, 1830. Mason also contributed to the magazine.

A number of items in the early volumes of the *Turf Register* touch upon the region of the upper Mississippi. Among them are accounts of trout fishing in the Wisconsin Valley, of "Deer Hunting on the Water by Lamp Light," of the way the Indians "frequently combine shooting, fishing and gathering the wild rice," and of a deer hunt on the Wisconsin River. To Minnesotans a description of a "Wolf Chase on the Ice" which is signed by "A.H.P." is of special interest.⁴ The writer relates that "Perhaps to hear of a wolf chase upon the ice, may not be less novel to some of your southern readers than 'fishing on skates.' . . . Having my horse shod for the sport, with sharp heels and steel toes to his shoes," he continues, "I ran down and killed upon the ice thirteen wolves during the month of January." With this account is printed, to verify the writer's statement, a "Certificate of E. T. Langham, Sub. Indian Agent," dated at Fort Snelling, February 3, 1831.

From time to time the *Turf Register* reprinted extracts from the published works of John Tanner, Lewis and Clark, Audubon, and other writers on the West. An account of "Game in Wisconsin" is reprinted in the issue of September, 1837, from the *Wisconsin Territorial Gazette*. Some

⁴This item appears in the *Turf Register* for December, 1831 (2: 182). The frontispiece for the issue is an engraving by E. W. Clay of the scene described. Two of the other upper Mississippi items noted are accompanied by illustrations by Peter Rindisbacher, whose work is described *ante*, p. 283-287. See the *Turf Register* for February and October, 1832 (3: 296, 4: 57-59). The latter account, which is signed "R.," may have been written by the artist. It includes an excellent description of the Indian methods of gathering and preparing wild rice.

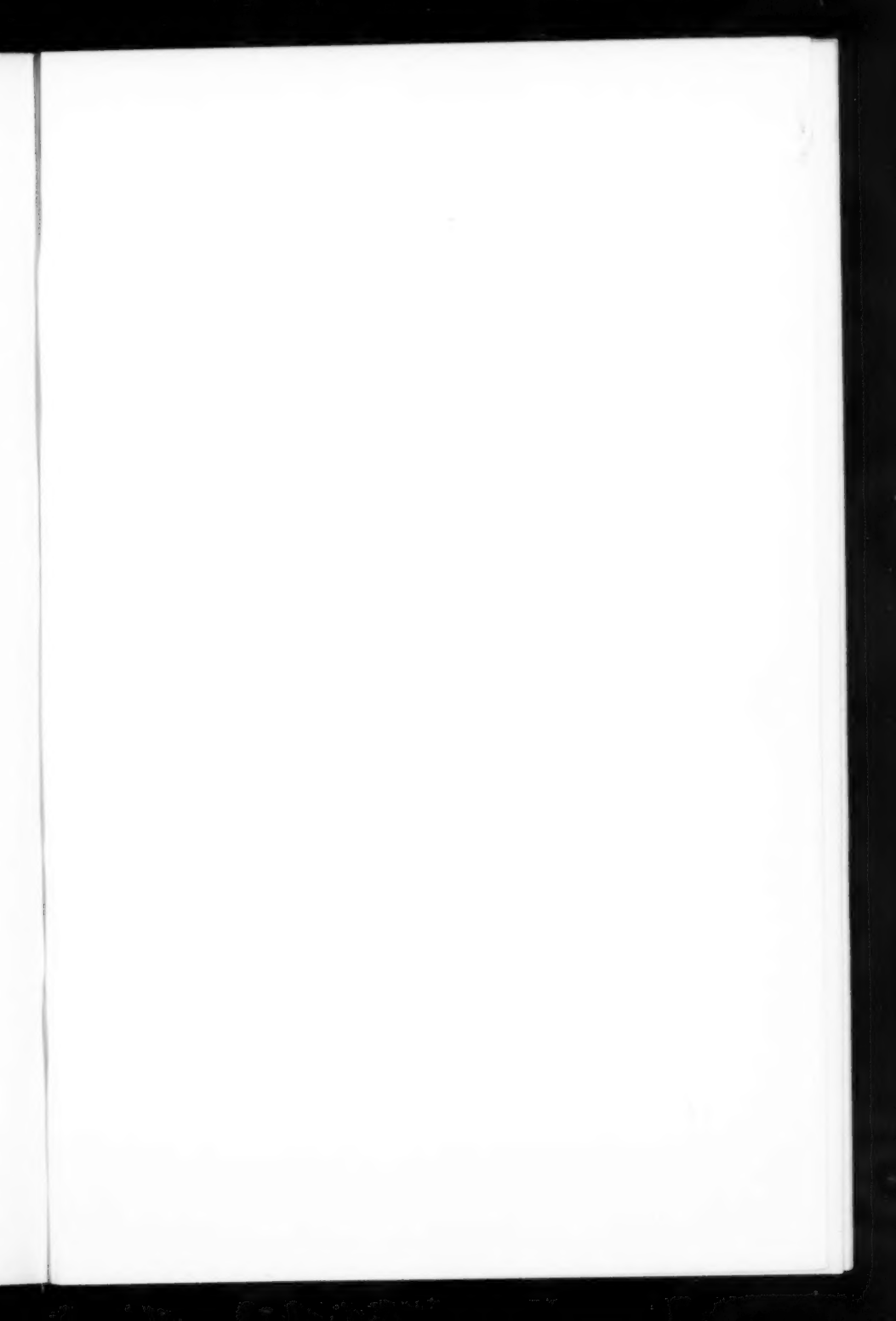
material from George Catlin's *Letters and Notes* is reproduced with one of his drawings in the May, 1842, number. Several years earlier Catlin contributed a letter to the *Turf Register*.⁵ Another well-known contributor was Henry W. Herbert, who under the pseudonym of "Frank Forester" prepared several series of articles for this periodical in 1839 and the early forties.

The *Turf Register* was published regularly until December, 1844, when volume 15 was completed. In the last issue appears an announcement that the magazine is to be discontinued, and that in the future for those who desire to register "pedigrees of Blood Stock, etc., . . . the columns of the '*Spirit of the Times*' will be open." In 1839 the ownership of the *Turf Register* was taken over by William T. Porter, editor of the *Spirit of the Times*. The latter magazine has as its subtitle, *A Chronicle of the Turf, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage*. Thus the subject matter of the periodicals overlapped, and after publishing both for six years Porter probably found that subscribers were lacking for two magazines of so similar a type. Consequently he decided to combine them.

Although the *Turf Register* appears to have had numerous subscribers in the Middle West, only one complete file of the periodical is now available in that region, according to the *Union List of Serials in Libraries in the United States and Canada*. It is owned by the University of Minnesota and is to be found in its agricultural college library in St. Paul. Two other complete files of this early sporting magazine are noted in the *Union List*—one in the New York Public Library and the other in the library of the University of Oregon. An evidence of the extreme rarity of this once popular magazine is the fact that in 1931 a set sold at auction for \$450.00.

B. L. H.

⁵ See the issue for August, 1836 (7: 554-561).





GOVERNOR RAMSEY AT TRAVERSE DES SIOUX, 1851

[From an original pencil sketch by Frank B. Mayer, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.]

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

A RAMSEY PORTRAIT

Governor Ramsey was abroad in the summer of 1869 when he received from Frank B. Mayer, the artist whose Minnesota diary the Minnesota Historical Society published in 1932, a letter in which Mayer made the following request: "I may solicit of you a small favor, which is to let me have one or two of your carte de visite portraits, for altho' I have a careful drawing of your profile made at the time of the Treaty [*of Traverse des Sioux*] I would prefer something more detailed—one nearly 'profile' and another near 'full-face.'"¹ At the time Mayer was planning to paint a huge canvas of the signing of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, which he attended in 1851. There he had made hundreds of sketches of scenes and people, including one of Ramsey. Since the governor was one of the commissioners who negotiated the treaty with the Indians, his figure would occupy a central place in a picture of the scene, and Mayer was particularly anxious to portray his features with accuracy.

Nearly fifty of the sketches that Mayer made during his western journey of 1851 were reproduced from the originals, now in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago, to illustrate his published diary, which appeared under the title *With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier*. When these illustrations were selected, an unsuccessful effort was made to find the sketch of Ramsey that the artist mentions in his letter of 1869. The sketch proved, after all, to be in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, and it is reproduced herewith. The original, which is on a sheet measuring about seven by four inches, probably

¹ Mayer to Ramsey, September 7, 1869, Ramsey Papers.

was taken from one of the sketchbooks that Mayer filled with drawings during his western journey. On the reverse side are some rough sketches of Henry Belland, a well-known voyageur. This little sheet of yellowed paper with its interesting drawings was presented to the society in 1903 by Edward E. Ayer of Chicago, who then owned the Mayer Sketchbooks and who added them to the remarkable collection of Americana that bears his name.²

B. L. H.

A PIONEER CEMETERY

This is the story of a cemetery that was "lost" and has been restored through the loving care of relatives of the hardy pioneers who sleep their last long sleep there. It is known as "Gravesbacken," and is located in the southern part of Vasa Township on a knoll in the center of a large grain farm about two miles north of White Rock and ten miles southeast of Cannon Falls. The first burial was made there in 1859 and the last in 1881. So far as is known, between seventy and eighty persons are buried in the plot. With the gradual settlement of the Vasa community, other cemeteries were provided; and as relatives of those buried at Gravesbacken left the community, the hallowed ground was all but forgotten. The plot was untouched by the plow, and soon brush and trees covered the mounds and the place became a habitat for snakes and wild animals.

In June, 1930, Mr. Ole Zackrison of Woodenville, Washington, a son of Jens Zackrison, one of the pioneers who rests in the cemetery, visited Vasa. Although he was nearly eighty years old, Mr. Zackrison went to Vasa especially to see that the cemetery was restored and placed on record, so that the remains of those buried there might never be dis-

²Warren Upham to Edward E. Ayer, October 21, 1903; to Charles M. Loring, October 21, 1903, Minnesota Historical Society Letter Books.

turbed. He enlisted the services of a number of local residents, including Mr. Ferdie L. Larson, Mr. Ole Haime, and others, to carry on the work.

The brush and trees were removed, the land was fenced, and the small spot was beautified. That was only a small part of the task, however. No record of the burials could be found, and Mr. Larson took upon himself the task of checking the names of those who rest in Gravesbacken. After a search which took him to the Atlantic coast, Kansas, Texas, and the Pacific coast, Mr. Larson identified thirty-one of the graves. In scores of cities throughout the country, family Bibles were checked and pioneers were questioned. More than a year was spent in this work.

The graves were easily discernible after the ground was cleared, for wooden frames placed about the mounds caused them to retain their shape despite exposure to the elements and more than a half century of neglect. There was but one headstone in the cemetery and that was furnished by the government to designate the grave of a soldier of the Civil War. It bears the name of Halvor Eckland, who enlisted in the Union army on October 3, 1861, as a member of Company D, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He died on January 2, 1862, while home on a furlough and was given a military funeral. Records revealed that another Civil War veteran rests in this cemetery. His grave was located next to that of Eckland. After weeks of poring over government records, his identity was established as Daniel Hanson, who died in 1867. He enlisted on February 10, 1864, in Company K, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out on August 19, 1865. A headstone, provided by the government, now marks his grave.

In 1857, Erick Jonason, Jens Zackrison, and Ole Hanson emigrated with their families from Harjedahlen in the northern part of Sweden and settled in the southern part

of Vasa Township. Soon more of these sturdy emigrants came, seeking new homes in this country. They were willing to work and to suffer the hardships of pioneer life. They named the settlement Jemtland after their old home in Sweden. In 1859, Minnie Zackrison, a daughter of Jens, passed away and was laid to rest on a beautiful knoll on her father's land about thirty rods from the colony. As the death angel continued to visit this and other near-by settlements, the number of graves on the knoll increased. When Eckland was buried in 1862, Zackrison announced that he would "donate, designate and dedicate an acre of this land or more if needed for a free public cemetery" and that no charge would be made for lots. This was never put on record, but the public used the plot as a burying ground until 1881. Under the law, the responsibility for the permanent upkeep of Gravesbacken now rests with the township of Vasa.

A beautiful monument now adorns the cemetery and with the surroundings cleared and an orderly arrangement effected, it is a most fitting resting place for the once forgotten dead. Those whose graves have been located and whose names appear on the monument are: Maria A. Collins, Mary Hanson, Maria Haime, Edward Haime, Jens Zackrison, Minnie Zackrison, John Zackrison, Magnil Zackrison, Julia Zackrison, Zackri Zackrison, Ramborg Zackrison, Pehr Olson, Gole Olson, Karin Eastman, Karin Olson, Pelle Hagman, Peter Swanson, Ole Johnson, Brita Johnson, Sara Anderson, John W. Anderson, Fredericka Johnson, Ole Erickson, Minnie Erickson, Erick Erickson, Marit Fundin, Halvor Fundin, Gustaf A. Johnson, Elof Wistrom, Helen C. Wistrom, and Mary Holm.

C. A. RASMUSSEN

GOODHUE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RED WING, MINNESOTA

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The United States since 1865. By LOUIS M. HACKER and BENJAMIN B. KENDRICK. With a foreword by DIXON RYAN FOX. (New York, F. S. Crofts & Co., 1932. xx, 775 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.00.)

Since the depression began, there has been no dearth of explanations from everyone who could gain a hearing of the causes of our present miseries. For the literate and the not so literate, the freshly printed page has given ample cause for confusion of mind and weariness of spirit; for those who could not or would not read, there have been the radio talks of economists. Now, for the college generation of the "New Deal" there has been provided a new history text on America since 1865, which, it is hoped, will inform the bewildered sophomore just how we "got that way." The editor in his foreword assures us that "now we are under a different dispensation" wherein "history is chiefly used to explain the present," a history that will end with an "incisive treatment of the unfinished business of this very year."

Despite the editor's blurb, which might more properly have graced the jacket rather than the preface, the reader will find in these seven hundred pages a straightforward, vigorous narrative. There is a cold clarity in the authors' presentation of the spectacle of an acquisitive society, freed from the trammels of an earlier day, ranging over a continent, preëmpting and exploiting, laying strong hands on government, local and national, and creating the America of the Machine Age. There is no mincing of words. More than one of the sacred cows of American government and business are slaughtered. Such a complete exposition, for instance, of the part played by the federal judiciary in the service of capital is something new in our college texts.

All in all, the student should come away from a careful reading of the book with any romantic notions of the continuance of the older American democracy pretty well knocked out of his head, and a conception of the present-day capitalistic imperialism which is modern

America pretty well knocked in. To perform this service for the present generation of college students is a worthy task.

ERNEST S. OSGOOD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

The Exploration of Western America, 1800-1850: An Historical Geography. By E. W. GILBERT, B. LITT., M. A. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1933. xiii, 233 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.25.)

Here is a history of western American exploration with a new approach. The author reconstructs "the geographical setting in which the explorers accomplished their work" (p. xi). An historical introduction is followed by two major divisions. Part 1 is devoted to a discussion of geographical features that would influence exploration, separate chapters being devoted to physical geography, climate, natural drainage, vegetation, animal life, and Indian inhabitants. The descriptions are given largely in the words of the original reports of explorers. Part 2 presents an excellent general summary of the progress of discovery in the trans-Missouri country. A chapter is devoted to each of the major sectional developments: the discovery of the northern route, opened by Lewis and Clark and the fur traders; the opening of the central route, primarily by the men of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company (Gilbert's rendering of the name "Rocky Mountains Fur Company" is perhaps logical, but was not the official name nor the title as used); and the discovery of the southern routes, with emphasis on the work of Pike, Long, the Patties, and Wolfskill. Approaching his subject as a geographer and an Englishman, the author sees features that the American historian would ordinarily overlook. The general field is well covered, with a fair allotment of space to the movements and characters involved.

The following omissions were noted. Armijo's connection with the opening of the Old Spanish Trail is not mentioned; nor is the importance of the winter branch of the California Trail, running from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, recognized. While Wislizenus' expedition to north Mexico is spoken of, no mention is made of his earlier journey of 1839. William Gilpin's explorations and his

writings along geographical lines should, the reviewer thinks, have entitled him to consideration in a work of this sort. Some minor slips or errors are made. The author has the Pony Express go through Bridger Pass instead of South Pass (p. 150). He says that the Preuss map was "on a scale of 32 inches to a mile" (p. 202). He places the "headwaters of the Arkansas in the South Park" (p. 184.)

Appropriately, most of the illustrations are maps. Important early ones are reproduced and newly drawn ones exhibit the routes of the principal explorations. A useful bibliography and a good index are included. The volume evinces wide reading and broad understanding of geographical discovery in western America. It is a good and useful book.

LEROY R. HAFEN

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO
DENVER

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the October meeting of the executive council of the society, the Honorable Eugene M. Phillips, commissioner of education, read a memorial address in honor of former Commissioner James M. McConnell, who died last April; and Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of the society's manuscripts, read a paper on "The Fur Trade" and described a book of fur-traders' diaries that has since been published by the University of Minnesota Press for the Minnesota Society of Colonial Dames. The address by Mr. Phillips is published elsewhere in the present issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

An audience of about two hundred and seventy-five members and friends of the society assembled in the auditorium of the Historical Building on the evening of October 18 to hear Professor Stephen Leacock lecture on "Lahontan in Minnesota." The president of the society, Mr. William W. Cutler, presided, and after the lecture the superintendent spoke informally, commenting on some of the historical problems involved in the Long River controversy. The society takes pleasure in publishing an abstract of Professor Leacock's interesting address in the present number of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

The announcement that the Minnesota Historical Society is co-operating with the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association in building up a collection of records and objects that will reflect the history of Minnesota pharmacy is the occasion for the publication of an editorial about the value of such a collection in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 21. "The plan should inspire other industries and businesses of Minnesota to exhibit a like interest in their historical backgrounds," comments the writer. "Business history is still a comparatively new field for the American museum and the necessity for increased activity along these lines becomes more pressing every year."

Twelve additions have been made to the active membership of the society in the three months ending September 30. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BROWN: Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm.

DOUGLAS: Reverend James S. Strand of Osakis.

HENNEPIN: Jessie L. Angst, Gerald H. Burgess, William R. Everett, and Charles C. Webber, all of Minneapolis.

OLMSTED: Dr. M. C. Piper and John H. Metzertott, both of Rochester.

RAMSEY: Dr. George N. Ruhberg, Ethel Shields, and Samuel E. Turner, all of St. Paul.

NONRESIDENT: Rev. Brother Memoriam of Edmonton, Canada.

The society has recently lost seven active members by death: Stillman H. Bingham of Duluth, July 22; Colonel Everett W. Foster of Watsonville, California, July 22; Andreas Ueland of Minneapolis, July 30; James T. Elwell of Minneapolis, August 10; Harold Harris of St. Paul, August 24; Katharine Dame of St. Paul, September 9; and Harry T. Drake of St. Paul, September 15. Notice has been received also of the deaths of Andrew D. Smith of Redwood Falls on July 11, 1932; of George L. Treat of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on December 23, 1932; and of the Reverend Alfred O. Johnson of Spring Grove on March 7, 1933.

The superintendent gave talks on Minnesota history before the Ramblers Club of Minneapolis on September 8, the Philolectian Club of Anoka on September 22, and the Business and Professional Men's Club of St. Paul on September 28; and he spoke on local historical work at a meeting held at Worthington on September 10 which resulted in the organization of the Nobles County Historical Society. "Pioneer Women of Minnesota" was the topic of a talk presented by Miss Nute before the Business and Professional Women's Club of St. Paul on September 14. Mr. Babcock gave an illustrated talk on Minnesota history for members of the Grafil Club of Minneapolis on July 13, and he spoke informally on local historical work at the North Shore Historical Assembly held at Lutsen on August 21 and at the Kandiyohi County Fair at Willmar on September 14.

The feature of the society's exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair in September was a series of electrically lighted transparencies, which reproduced views of frontier Minnesota from the society's picture collection.

The superintendent has been made a member of the board of editors of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, and the curator of manuscripts has been elected to membership in the executive council of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

Dr. Warren Upham has been appointed by the executive committee to the honorary position of archeologist emeritus in recognition of his long and faithful services to the society, and the former position of archeologist has been merged with that of the curator of the museum. Mr. Van Koughnet, who has served on the society's staff as research and general assistant for the past two years, resigned on September 15 in order to resume his studies at Harvard University.

Two members of the society's staff have contributed to the double number of the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for January and April, 1933. An article on the "Fur Trade as an Aid to Settlement" by Mr. Babcock is a revision of an address that he delivered on June 19, 1932, at the celebration at Warroad of the bicentennial of the arrival of La Vérendrye in the Lake of the Woods region (see *ante*, 13:345). Miss Heilbron supplies an introduction and notes for an account of "A British Agricultural Expert in the Red River Valley, 1879," which is a reprint of a chapter from Finlay Dun's *American Farming and Food* (London, 1881).

The work of the society is reviewed by the superintendent in an article entitled "History and the State," which appears in the *Ace*, the publication of the St. Paul Athletic Club, for October.

Mr. Babcock contributes an essay on "Indian Folk Lore" to the August issue of the *Wigwam*, a magazine published at Minneapolis as the "organ of the American Indian."

For the publication of the series of radio talks broadcast last year over station WLB under the auspices of the society, the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* was awarded second place in the national annual magazine awards contest conducted by the American Alumni Council. The award was announced at the national convention of the council, which was held in Evanston, Illinois, in June. The alumni magazines of 168 colleges and universities were entered in the contest.

ACCESSIONS

Photostatic copies of sixteen documents relating to Groseilliers' visit to London in 1665 and 1666 and to the efforts made by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1682 and 1699 to remove the French from the Hudson Bay region have been received from the Public Record Office in London. Thirty-two additional documents relating to the same subjects and to the activities of Radisson, Groseilliers, and other employees of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Hudson Bay country have been copied for the society from transcripts in the Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa. The originals of these documents also are in the Public Record Office.

Information about annuities, claims, missions, half-breed scrip, and schools among the Sioux, Chippewa, and Winnebago is to be found on the calendar cards received recently from the bureau of Indian affairs. There are also some references to attempts to establish saw-mills on the upper branches of the Mississippi a century ago.

A collection of field notes and township plats made by Milton P. Noel, county surveyor for Stearns County in the fifties, have been received from his daughter, Mrs. William D. Mitchell of St. Cloud. The plats bear the names of the owners of each section of land mapped. Several plats for surrounding counties, which were made by other surveyors, are included in the gift. Mrs. Mitchell also has presented a transit, a compass, a plummet, and other articles of surveyor's equipment used by her father.

A photostatic copy of a letter written by Isaac I. Stevens on August 7, 1853, to Pierre Bottineau, commending him for his services as guide for the Northern Pacific Railroad survey of that year, is the gift of the latter's grandniece, Miss Sylvia Bottineau of Minneapolis. The original letter is owned by Mrs. Charles Chenevert of Osseo.

A group of papers of Samuel B. Abbe is the gift of his niece, Miss Abby Abbe Fuller of St. Paul. The papers include valuable material on the purchase by members of the Crow Wing Land Association of the Fort Ripley military reservation, which was announced for sale in 1857. Many of the papers relate to land speculation and to the activities of town-site companies at Otter Tail City, Chaska,

Shakopee, and Fort Ripley. Material about the activities of Abbe's brother-in-law, David L. Fuller, who was engaged in trading with the Winnebago at Sauk Rapids and Little Falls, also is to be found in the papers.

A preëmption certificate granted at the Minneapolis land office in 1856 to Eleazer Snell, and six receipts issued to his brother, Stephen D. Snell, for payment of taxes on land in Minneapolis between 1861 and 1880 are the gifts of the latter's daughter, Mrs. Charles C. Stetson of St. Paul. Mrs. Stetson has also presented a certificate of appointment of Reese M. Newport as colonel by brevet for services during the Civil War; and a commission issued in 1908 to his daughter, Miss Mary M. Newport, as a member of the governing board of the State Art Society of Minnesota.

Photostatic or photographic copies of the population schedules of all the Minnesota counties covered in the special census of 1857 are now available to students who make use of the society's resources. The originals are preserved in the archives of the census bureau at Washington.

The proposed Sioux treaty of 1858, the visit of an Indian delegation to Washington, the machinations of traders and land speculators, and the government's policy of civilizing the Indians are discussed in letters written in 1858 and 1859 from Pajutazee in Yellow Medicine County by Thomas S. Williamson, the missionary, which have been copied for the society from the originals among the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston.

A record of marriages, baptisms, and funerals kept between 1875 and 1905 in Wisconsin, Iowa, California, and Minnesota by the Reverend Joseph B. Gidney, a Baptist minister, has been copied for the society by the photostatic process from the original in the possession of Miss Martha M. Gedney of Minneapolis. The Minnesota records relate to Houston County. Three letters containing information about the genealogy of the Fowler, Beyea, and allied families, written in 1929 by Andrew S. Beyea to Miss Edith Fowler, are gifts of Miss Gedney.

The diary of the late Andrew A. Veblen, contained in about thirty small volumes, is included in a substantial addition to his papers, fill-

ing several filing boxes and covering the years from 1876 to 1932, which is the gift of his son, Professor Oswald Veblen of Princeton University (see *ante*, p. 217). He has also presented a volume of correspondence carried on between Veblen and Joseph Dorfman of New York and relating to Thorstein Veblen, the noted economist; several scrapbooks of clippings about the careers of the Veblen brothers; and groups of papers about the activities of the Norwegian-American *bygdelags*, the genealogy of the Veblen family, the Kensington rune stone, and the founding of a chair of Scandinavian literature at the University of Iowa.

Minutes of meetings and treasurer's records of the New Century Club of St. Paul covering the years from 1887 to 1927 have been received from that organization through the courtesy of Mrs. Fred Blodgett of St. Paul. A record of the club's activity as a member of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs from 1896 to 1902 is included in the gift.

Letters written to Senator Knute Nelson by his constituents and papers relating to his activities as chairman of a joint committee of Congress appointed in 1910 to investigate the department of the interior and the bureau of forestry have been added to the Nelson Papers by former Governor J. A. O. Preus. He has also presented six filing boxes of his own correspondence dating from 1923, when he was campaigning for the senatorial seat left vacant by Nelson's death.

Several letters from Governor Winfield S. Hammond regarding his election in 1914 and a letter from President Wilson referring to the Minnesota branch of the Patriotic Americans of German Origin are included among twenty items of personal papers that have been presented by Mr. Henry F. Wessel of St. Paul. Mr. Wessel was president of the German society, which was organized on April 2, 1918, but was dissolved after the signing of the armistice.

The Better Business Bureau of the Minneapolis Advertising Forum has turned over to the society a large mass of its records for the period from 1912 to 1925, consisting of correspondence, formal reports, account books, and scrapbooks. The papers include material about prices, trade names, imitation products, patent medicines, in-

vestments, publications, and other matters that were the subject of investigation by the bureau.

A series of detailed sketches of Dakota County pioneers, prepared by the late John H. Case of Hastings and based upon information that he gathered by means of interviews and questionnaires, has been received from his daughter, Mrs. Lewis C. Church of Minneapolis. Material about the families of Alexis Bailly, Auguste L. Larpeur, Alexander Faribault, Eli Pettijohn, Hazen Mooers, and about the Sioux chief, Medicine Bottle, is included.

Master's theses on "Frontier Homes and Home Management" by Evadene A. Burris, on the "History of the Temperance Movement in Minnesota to 1865" by Agnes E. Ellingsen, and on "The Social and Cultural Aspects of the Methodist Church in Pioneer Minnesota" by Merrill E. Jarchow, prepared at the University of Minnesota, have been received from its history department. A master's thesis by Wesley Lauritsen entitled "The Scandinavian Influence in Minnesota," which was submitted at Gallaudet College, is the gift of the author. Term papers prepared at the University of Minnesota for a course in Minnesota history and presented by the writers include "The 'Old Crossing' Chippewa Treaty of 1863" by Ella Hawkinson, "A History of St. Cloud, Minnesota, 1861-65" by Henrietta L. Memler, and an account of Mantorville in 1857 and 1858 by Claude C. Lammers.

The activities of each unit of the American Legion Auxiliary in Minnesota during 1931, 1932, and 1933 are surveyed in sketches prepared by the unit historians and turned over to the society by the state historian, Mrs. M. E. Withrow of International Falls (see *ante*, 11:445).

A scrapbook of correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to the activities between 1883 and 1904 of the First Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, has been compiled and presented by Brigadier General Charles McCormick Reeve of Minnetonka Beach.

Mr. Victor Robertson of St. Paul has added forty-eight volumes to the collection of works dealing with the genealogy of the Robertson family and with Scotch history that he presented to the society some months ago (see *ante*, p. 218). Other gifts received from Mr.

Robertson are a copy of a rare newspaper, the *Watab Reveille* for January 10, 1851, and two photographs of the pioneer Minnesota editor D. A. Robertson.

Sketches of a number of Minnesotans are included in a genealogical work entitled *An American Family: Botsford-Marble Ancestral Lines* by Donald L. Jacobus (New Haven, 1933. 267 p.). A copy of this volume has been presented to the society by Mr. Otis Marble Botsford of Winona, for whom the work was compiled. Accounts of Mr. Botsford's pioneer experiences in South Dakota in the eighties and of his career as a lumberman in Winona are included.

An interesting addition to the society's genealogical collection is a *Genealogy of the Cabot Family* (Boston, 1927), which is the gift of the author, Dr. Vernon L. Briggs of Boston. He has also presented a copy of his *California and the West* (Boston, 1931) and a group of pictures and pamphlets used in its preparation.

In accordance with a plan formulated by the Minnesota society of the Daughters of the American Revolution at its annual convention for 1933 (see *ante*, p. 214), a group of seven volumes relating to genealogy has been presented to the society by this organization.

A pamphlet entitled *The Scalpel under Three Flags in California* by Dr. George D. Lyman (San Francisco, 1925. 67 p.) is the gift of the author. It includes some material about John Marsh, the "trail-blazer on six frontiers" whose biography Dr. Lyman published in 1930 (see *ante*, 11:430-432).

The first eleven volumes of the *Evangelical Review*, covering the years from 1849 to 1860, have been received from the Reverend George Fritschel of Wartburg Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa.

A valuable addition to the newspaper collection is a file of the rare *Sauk Rapids Frontierman* from the first number, issued on April 26, 1855, through 1858, which has been presented by Mrs. J. H. Coates of Sauk Rapids, a daughter of Jeremiah Russell, the first editor of the paper.

A file of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, for the period from August 12, 1911, to May 30, 1914, has been received from Mrs. Mabel Agnew of Burlington. A wealth of material

relating to the navigation of the upper Mississippi appeared in the *Post* between 1911 and 1932, a period for which the society's file is now nearly complete.

A collection of more than seven hundred photographs of Civil and Spanish-American War scenes and personages assembled by the late Captain J. Colfax Grant of Minneapolis and about eighty lantern slides made from these pictures are included in an important gift consisting, in addition to pictures, of manuscripts, books, and military objects, which has been received from Captain Grant's sister-in-law, Mrs. U. S. Grant of Evanston, Illinois. Materials relating to investments made in Minneapolis in the eighties by Major General Lewis A. Grant, the father of Captain Grant, and some items relating to the genealogy of the Grant family are to be found among the manuscripts. The books consist of about three hundred volumes, half of which are government documents. Other features of the gift are a large oil portrait of Major General Grant and a group of military objects, including uniforms, swords, and belts.

Of unusual interest and value are two oil paintings that have been added recently to the society's collections. One showing the Mississippi at St. Anthony was painted by R. Sloan in 1852, when he was a guest at the old Cheever House of St. Anthony. As a means of settling his account he painted this picture for the proprietor, whose son, Mr. H. A. Cheever of Attleboro, Massachusetts, has until recently had it in his possession. It has now been presented to the society through the generosity of Mr. Everett H. Bailey of St. Paul, the treasurer of the society. The second painting, which depicts the Mississippi in the vicinity of Red Wing about 1854, is the work of George H. Durrie. He painted the canvas for Colonel James Babcock, the editor of the *New Haven* [Connecticut] *Palladium*, who visited Minnesota in 1854 as a member of the famous Rock Island Railroad excursion of that year. With the painting, the donor of which will be announced later, the society has acquired a little leather notebook containing letters written to the *Palladium* by Colonel Babcock while on his western trip.

A steel mill pick used in a pioneer mill on Minnehaha Creek near the present site of Hopkins by Peter Schussler is the gift of his son, Dr. O. F. Schussler of Minneapolis.

The uniform and diving knife used by the late James W. Frazer of St. Paul, master diver in the United States Navy, have been presented by his widow, who has also given several photographs showing Frazer in his diving suit.

The brass bell that was used on the Civil War battleship "Minnesota" has been turned over to the society by the navy department as a result of the efforts of Congressman Paul Kvale.

A silver mounted revolver and shoulder straps that belonged to General James Shields, a Civil War sabre and belt used by his son, Captain Charles Shields, and other items are the gifts of the Shields family, through the courtesy of Miss Alice Shields of St. Paul. Other additions to the military collection include several Civil War guns, a canteen, a shot flask, a revolver, and some caps presented by Mrs. E. I. O'Neil of Los Angeles.

A carved rosewood bed, wardrobe, and cabinet dating from the fifties, an Italian mosaic table, various pieces of fine china and glassware, and other items are the gifts of Mrs. James D. Denegre of St. Paul. Mrs. E. I. O'Neil of Los Angeles has presented some cooking utensils, china, silver, glassware, and other domestic objects used in pioneer Minnesota.

Recent additions to the costume collection include a child's embroidered merino cape and bonnet dating from 1856, from Miss Nellie Cardozo of St. Paul; wedding waists worn in 1840 and 1855, from Mrs. P. M. Leakin and Mrs. George W. Garrard, both of Frontenac; a lace bonnet of the nineties, from Mrs. Leakin; and a colonial costume and other articles of clothing, from the estate of the late Mrs. Marshall Coolidge of Minneapolis.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"Local history, in my matured judgment, is one of the most rewarding fields of research," writes Alexander C. Flick in an article entitled "Our Buried Treasures," which appears in *New York History* for January. "It is in the study of local history," he points out, "that we can see most clearly that vital operation in historical development, institutional growth—political, educational, religious, social and economic. This process can be traced most easily in the small community." After demonstrating the value of local history, Dr. Flick makes an appeal for its teaching and for the collection and preservation of local historical records and objects.

The past "is our own in a way that nothing else in life is," writes Grace King in the preface to her *Memories of a Southern Woman of Letters* (New York, 1932). We "are our past; we do not cling to it, it clings to us. Innumerable filaments of memory fasten it to us, and we go through life with them dangling behind us." The memories, she continues, "go back far beyond our experience, out of sight of it, to fasten upon parents and grandparents."

The use of the photo-lithographic process and of other methods of reproducing books and manuscripts in facsimile is doing much to make available to students of history in all parts of the world rare sources that previously could be consulted only in a few large depositories. Many of the disadvantages of ordinary printing are eliminated by these means of reproduction. The tedious work of copying and collation in preparing the manuscript for the printer and the various details involved in proof-reading become unnecessary. Thus the cost of production is reduced. Furthermore, it is virtually impossible for errors to creep into works that are in effect photographic reproductions of the originals. Some excellent examples of this type of publication have been issued during the past year or two. A facsimile reproduction of the original Portuguese text, issued in 1557, of the *True Relation of the Hardships Suffered by Governor Fernando de Soto & Certain Portuguese Gentlemen during the Discovery of the Province of Florida* forms the first volume of a recent publication of the Florida State Historical Society (DeLand, 1932).

The work has been edited by James A. Robertson, whose translation of the text is published as the second volume. Manuscript as well as printed material is reproduced in volume 1 of the *Early Minutes of the Trustees* of Columbia University (New York, 1932). The Facsimile Text Society has chosen for volume 7 of its *Language and Literature* series *Five Travel Scripts Commonly Attributed to Edward Ward*, which have been "Reproduced from the Earliest Editions Extant" and supplied with a bibliographical note by Howard W. Troyer (New York, 1933). The format of each of these works is unusually attractive. They illustrate to good advantage the use of a book-making process that is both beautiful and practical.

An interesting kind of activity for local historical organizations is suggested in an article entitled "Replacement Records of County Historical Buildings" by Chester E. Wheeler, which appears in the *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Westchester County, New York, Historical Society for April. Mr. Wheeler tells of a project that has been worked out in Westchester County providing for the "preservation as a public record of complete architectural and detail plans" of historical buildings in the county.

Among the subjects of special interest to students of Minnesota and Northwest history that appear in the *List of Doctoral Dissertations in History Now in Progress at the Chief American Universities*, issued in 1932 by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, are the following: "Influences of the Frontier on Religion in America" by R. F. Lee (Minnesota); "Early History of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway" by H. W. Rice (Iowa); "The American Fur Company" by W. S. Bridgwater (Yale); "The Army on the Frontier, 1815-1845" by H. P. Beers (Pennsylvania); "The Nonpartisan League" by R. H. Bahmer (Minnesota); "Inter-tribal Relations among the Great Lakes Indians" by G. T. Hunt (Wisconsin); "The Development of Manufactures in the Great Lakes Basin" by J. E. Pautz (Columbia); "The History of the Catholic Church in Minnesota" by Sister Grace McDonald (Minnesota); "The Operation of the Federal Land Policy in Minnesota" by V. E. Chatelain (Minnesota); "History of the Lumber Industry in Minnesota" by Agnes M. Larson (Radcliffe); "The Civil War Veteran in Minnesota Politics" by F. H. Heck (Minne-

sota); "The Norwegians in Iowa" by H. F. Swansen (Iowa); "The Red River of the North" by A. H. Moehlman (Michigan); and "The Riel Rebellions" by J. A. Jonasson (Stanford).

An illustrated account of the explorations of "La Vérendrye, Pathfinder of the West" is contributed by Lawrence J. Burpee to the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for April. Some memories of the voyageurs and traders of the Red River region by John P. Turner appear under the title "Men of the Long Portage" in the January number of the same magazine.

The figure of a *fleur-de-lis* is engraved on the metal remains of an ancient pistol, discovered recently near the mouth of the Big Grassy River on the Lake of the Woods and placed with the St. Boniface Historical Society. It is conjectured that the pistol belonged to one of La Vérendrye's men.

That the author of *Giants in the Earth* "gave the American people their great pioneer saga" and "enriched American letters with a new and penetrating depiction of the immigrant" are claims made by Einar I. Haugen in a study of "O. E. Rølvaag: Norwegian-American," which appears in volume 7 of *Norwegian-American Studies and Records*, issued by the Norwegian-American Historical Association (Northfield, 1933. 139 p.). Mr. Haugen points out that the "dominant passion of Rølvaag's life was his attachment to his race," and he shows in detail how this passion influenced the author's work. Another publication issued by the Norwegian-American Historical Association during the past year is a volume entitled *Norwegian Sailors in American Waters: A Study in the History of Maritime Activity on the Eastern Seaboard* by Knut Gjerset (271 p.).

An account of pioneer experiences in the Red River Valley in the early seventies by a Norwegian immigrant, the late A. O. Serum of Halstead, is included in the second volume of *Selbyggbogen: Meddelelser om Selbyggernes Slægt i Amerika og deres Virke* (Minneapolis, 1931). This is one among many items of Minnesota interest in a volume dealing with immigrants from the Selbu district in Norway. A mass of biographical information is brought together for given areas, such as Olmsted, Dodge, and Mower counties; Jackson and Cottonwood counties; Lac qui Parle County; and northern and cen-

tral Minnesota. The author and editor is the Reverend John U. Pedersen, who was also responsible for the first volume, noted in this magazine, *ante*, 4:462. At the end of the book is considerable information about Selbulaget, the organization that has sponsored the publication.

The first migration of Norwegians to America and their experiences as pioneers in the United States form the central theme of an historical novel by Martin W. Odland entitled *The New Canaan* (Minneapolis, 1933. 208 p.). The novel was published originally as a serial in the *St. Paul Dispatch*.

Three chapters of *A History of American Mining* by T. A. Rickard (New York and London, 1932. 419 p.) are devoted to lead mining in Iowa and Wisconsin, gold mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and copper mining in the Lake Superior country. The subject of iron mining in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan is, however, neglected. The discovery of mineral resources by the early French and British explorers of the Northwest as well as the development of mining is touched upon in the volume.

The beginnings of the lyceum movement are well outlined by Leslie H. Meeks in an article on "The Lyceum in the Early West," which appears in the June issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. Special emphasis is placed upon lyceum activities at Terre Haute in the late fifties.

Members of the South Slavonic Catholic Union of America, a national organization that originated at Ely on July 18, 1898, met in that city on July 30 to celebrate its thirty-fifth anniversary. A short history of the union appears in the *Ely Miner* for July 28.

The centennial of the publication of Dr. William Beaumont's *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice*, in which the surgeon gave to the world the results of experiments carried on while he was stationed at pioneer military posts in the Northwest, has been the occasion for the appearance of a number of items about his life and work. For example, articles on the "William Beaumont Centennial" and the "Pioneer of American Physiology," both recalling events that took place at Mackinac and at Fort Crawford, appear in the issues of the *Medical Pocket Quarterly* for June and September;

and a booklet which reproduces the cover and title page of the first edition of the *Observations* and includes a number of interesting items about its author was published at Jersey City. The New York Academy of Medicine, meeting early in October, commemorated the anniversary and displayed a set of lancets once used by Dr. Beaumont and now owned by the St. Paul Institute, according to the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 6. In this connection it is interesting to recall that Beaumont's work is commemorated by a marker erected near the ruins of the Fort Crawford post hospital by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin in 1931. It bears the following inscription: "William Beaumont, M. D., Pioneer in Physiology. Born Lebanon, Conn. 1785; Died St. Louis, Mo. 1853. At old Fort Crawford, one and one-half miles northwest of this spot, one hundred years ago, Doctor Beaumont, a surgeon in the U. S. Army performed those experiments on Alexis St. Martin which laid the foundation for our knowledge of digestion." To call attention to the dedication of this marker, the *Courier of Prairie du Chien* published with its issue of August 25, 1931, a supplement, which is made up of articles and illustrations relating to the career of Dr. Beaumont.

The "Grand Excursion of 1854," which marked the completion of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad to the Mississippi, is characterized as "by far the most brilliant event the West had ever witnessed" by William J. Petersen in the *Palimpsest* for August. The journey up the Mississippi by steamboat from Rock Island to St. Paul of a group of celebrities who had reached the West on the newly opened railroad and the entertainments with which the excursionists were greeted at St. Anthony and St. Paul are described in some detail. Mr. Petersen also contributes a sketch of the building of the Rock Island to this issue of the *Palimpsest*.

The fiftieth anniversary of the "colorful and noisy ceremonies" at Gold Creek, Montana, on September 8, 1883, which marked the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Lake Superior and the Pacific was the occasion for the publication of a large number of newspaper articles about the building of the road. "The Last Spike" is the title of an illustrated feature article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 30, in which emphasis is placed upon the story of the laying of the track across Minnesota, Dakota, and

Montana. Henry Villard and the great celebration at Gold Creek are the centers of interest in an article published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 6. The breaking of the first sod on the surveyed route of the Northern Pacific near Duluth in February, 1870, is described in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for September 8.

The history of the press used by James M. Goodhue in printing the *Minnesota Pioneer* is briefly traced by Douglas C. McMurtrie in a survey of the "Beginnings of Printing in Iowa," which appears in the *Annals of Iowa* for July. According to Mr. McMurtrie the press was purchased in Cincinnati by John King, who established the *Du Buque Visitor* in 1836. Six years later it was sold and removed to Lancaster, Wisconsin, where it was acquired by Goodhue. The later history of the press, which has been the subject of considerable controversy, also is related by Mr. McMurtrie. He cites authorities who assert that the press was removed from St. Paul to Sioux Falls, where it was destroyed by Indians and where its remains still are preserved in a museum; and he refers to other writers who claim that the press was used in the late fifties at Sauk Rapids. He mentions also the press in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, which, he says, is "claimed to be the original press used by John King in Iowa."

Wisconsin's Belgian Community: An Account of the Early Events in the Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin with Particular Reference to the Belgians in Door County, by Hjalmar R. Holand, is an interesting and valuable study of a single racial group in a middle western state recently published by the Door County Historical Society (Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, 1933. 105 p.). The author has painstakingly drawn up a list of the Belgians who settled in the three townships of Union, Brussels, and Gardner before the Civil War; and he has obtained from the office of the Door County register of deeds records of all preëmptions of land made by Belgians before 1862. In the volume these records are illustrated by township plats on which are located all lands legally preëmpted by Belgians. Other chapters, which seem to be based to a large extent upon interviews with pioneers and old letters, deal with "Pioneer Experiences," the forest fire that swept over the settlement in 1871, the history of the local churches, and "Belgian Characteristics and Customs" as reflected in the social life of the community.

The site of the boyhood home of Senator Knute Nelson near Whitewater, Wisconsin, has been marked with a bronze tablet, which was unveiled and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on May 28. Among the speakers were Dr. Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Professor Julius Olson, and Mr. Rasmus B. Anderson.

Extracts from the travel literature of more than two and a half centuries make up one of the most interesting volumes about Chicago that has been inspired by "A Century of Progress." It is published under the title *As Others See Chicago: Impressions of Visitors, 1673-1933*, and has been compiled and edited by Bessie L. Pierce and Joe L. Norris, both of the University of Chicago (Chicago, 1933. 540 p.). The area around the mouth of the Chicago River from the days of Father Marquette to those of G. K. Chesterton is here pictured, and the origin and growth of the city are reflected. Each extract is introduced by a sketch of the writer, and adequate and informing annotations accompany the texts.

Copper mining operations on Isle Royale in 1874 and 1875 form the background for a little book entitled *Winter on Isle Royale* by Sarah Barr Christian, whose husband was superintendent of the mine (1932. 44 p.). She describes vividly the conditions under which the little group—consisting for the most part of Cornish miners and engineers and their families—lived during the long northern winter.

A History of South Dakota State College edited by William H. Powers has been issued to commemorate the passing of half a century since this pioneer agricultural college of the Dakotas was founded (Brookings, 1931. 144 p.). The progress of agricultural education is well illustrated in this little book, which includes accounts of the administrations of the various presidents of the college, of the extension of its curriculum, of the growth of the campus, and of the careers of its graduates.

Two large volumes containing 704 pages are required for the publication of a *Bibliography of the History of California* by Robert Ernest Cowan and Robert Granniss Cowan, recently published in San Francisco (1933). A third volume is devoted to title, subject, and chronological indexes.

A state history of more than ordinary interest and value is *Colorado: The Story of a Western Commonwealth* by LeRoy R. Hafen (Denver, 1933. 328 p.). From the "Days of the Cliffdwellers," through the eras of exploration, the fur trade, and settlement, and down to the actual year of publication, the history of Colorado is traced. A chapter on "Recent Changes and Innovations" includes paragraphs on such subjects as modern transportation, the use of gas and electricity, the radio, the motion picture, and the state's tourist business.

That the paintings of Paul Kane "constitute the best existing record of the dress, manners, and customs of the redmen of the great North-West before it had been invaded by white civilization" is the claim made by Hector Charlesworth in a sketch of the artist which is included in a volume entitled *The Canadian Scene* (Toronto, 1927). The writer points out that "Kane was nothing if not a hardened realist," and that for this reason his work is more reliable and accurate than that of the romantic Catlin. A concise account of Kane's western travels is included in this sketch. Other articles in this volume that are of special interest for the Northwest are accounts of "George Stephen's Battle for a Transcontinental Railroad," of the history of "The Great Company,"—the Hudson's Bay Company,—and of "Lincoln and Canada."

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The commemoration of Minnesota's "Diamond Jubilee," which opened with elaborate ceremonies in May and was marked by numerous celebrations throughout the summer months (see *ante*, p. 343-348), continues to inspire historical programs, newspaper and magazine articles, essay contests, and the like. Two local historical societies—those of Martin and Pipestone counties—included in programs presented on August 27 and September 4 addresses about the state's seventy-fifth anniversary. The city of Pipestone arranged a community celebration on October 5, which commemorated not only the state anniversary but the fifty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the village and the fifty-fourth anniversary of the organization of the county as well. Senator Henrik Shipstead delivered the principal address on this occasion, and historical talks on the state, the city,

and the county were presented by George P. Gurley, M. Tedd Evans, and Winifred Bartlett. The program included a pageant reviewing the history of the county, and a ceremonial dance by students from the Pipestone Indian school. A special performance of the "Minnesota Diamond Jubilee Pageant," which was presented six times during the summer at Itasca State Park, was staged at Whitewater State Park on August 20.

The winners in a state-wide essay contest conducted by the tourist bureau of the Minnesota department of conservation and the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association were guests of Itasca State Park for the final performance of the pageant on September 4. About a hundred essays dealing with Sioux War experiences were submitted, and of these the three prepared by Mr. Harry B. West of Morgan, Miss Dorothy Kuske of Olivia, and Mrs. Julia E. F. Lobdell of Minneapolis were selected for prizes by a committee consisting of Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, Mr. George H. Bradley, director of the Minnesota tourist bureau, and Mr. Earle A. Barker, president of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association. A detailed review of the material included in the pageant is published under the title "Our Heritage from the Pioneer" by Alfred L. Nelson in the *Minnesota Conservationist* for August. Another magazine that has given some attention to the "Diamond Jubilee" is the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*, which devoted some space in its issue of October 14 to a survey of the history of the university against a background of state history. Several views of the campus—"past, present and future"—accompany this sketch. A "State Day Convocation" arranged at the university on October 26 commemorated the state's seventy-fifth anniversary and was held particularly "in honor of the pioneer editors of Minnesota and in recognition of the contribution of the Press to the development of the State." On this occasion an address on the history of the Minnesota press was delivered by Mr. Herman Roe, publisher of the *Northfield News*.

The H. W. Wilson Company has issued for use in the schools and by study clubs a pamphlet entitled *Minnesota: State Name, Flag, Seal, Song, Bird, Flower, and other Symbols* by George E. Shankle (1933. 15 p.). It closes with a "List of Outstanding State Histories." Only four are included—*Minnesota in Three Centuries*

and the works by Folwell, Burnquist, and Neill. In describing Dr. Folwell's history, the author mentions a mythical fifth volume, which he says is "in the course of preparation."

A feature story about the "Minnesota Man" (see *ante*, p. 222), reprinted from the *Milwaukee Journal* in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for August 16, is prefaced by an announcement that Dr. Albert E. Jenks of the University of Minnesota, who identified the skeleton found in Glacial Lake Pelican in 1931 and declared that it belonged to the pre-glacial era, was again excavating in the vicinity of Pelican Rapids during the summer.

A large number of Minnesota churches held anniversary celebrations during the past summer. Among the oldest were the Houston Swedish Baptist Church, which commemorated the eightieth anniversary of its founding from August 11 to 13, and the Trinity Episcopal Chapel of Excelsior, which celebrated its seventy-eighth anniversary on August 2. Churches that were founded in the year that Minnesota became a state and could therefore join the commonwealth in the celebration of a "Diamond Jubilee" include the Anoka Episcopal Church (September 17 and 18), the Chaska Moravian Church (July 23), the East Union Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carver County (July 1 and 2), St. George Catholic Church of New Ulm (September 10), St. John's Lutheran Church of Red Wing (September 17 to 23), St. Bridget's Catholic Church near Rochester (August 13), the Rockford Presbyterian Church (August 27), the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vista (July 30), and the West Union Lutheran Church in Scott County (August 13). A sixty-fifth anniversary was celebrated by Paul's Reformed Church near Hamburg in Carver County on August 20; a sixty-first anniversary, by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Richwood in Becker County on September 24; sixtieth anniversaries, by the Glendorado Lutheran Church in Benton County on August 27, the First Lutheran Church of Litchfield on July 9, the Mandt Lutheran Church in Chippewa County on September 17, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Preston on September 10, St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Stearns County on August 27, and the Solem Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Douglas County on July 30; fiftieth anniversaries, by the St. Rose of Lima Catholic

Church of Argyle on August 30, the Assumption Catholic Church of Barnesville in Clay County on August 30 and 31, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Bergen in McLeod County on July 16, the Mission Covenant Church of Braham from September 8 to 10, the Swedish Mission Tabernacle of Duluth from July 26 to 30, the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Duluth from September 13 to 17, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Fairmont on August 27, the Community Methodist Church of Perham from August 18 to 20, the Skjeberg Lutheran Church of Teien Township in Kittson County on July 8 and 9, and the Spring Creek Lutheran Church in Yellow Medicine County on September 16 and 17; a forty-fifth anniversary, by the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Iron Hub in Crow Wing County on September 10; and a fortieth anniversary, by the Denham Methodist Episcopal Church in Pine County from August 3 to 6. Most of the celebrations here noted were described in the local press, and in many cases historical sketches of the churches were published. Of special interest is an illustrated section devoted to "Swedish Lutheran History" which appears with the *Waseca Journal* for July 26. It contains much detailed historical material about the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vista, which was founded in August, 1858, by the Reverend Eric Norelius. Another church history is that of the Salem Lutheran Church of Karlstad compiled by its pastor, the Reverend Robert W. Ericsson, which appears in the *Karlstad Advocate* for July 28 and August 4 and calls attention to the passing of half a century since the church was founded.

Extracts from what appears to be a letter book kept in 1827 by Colonel Josiah Snelling, for whom Fort Snelling is named, are quoted in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for September 21. The volume, which is described as a diary, is owned by Mrs. William Ritchie of Omaha, a grandniece of Snelling.

The history of the Old Capitol, which was closed recently, was reviewed in a talk presented over radio station WCCO by J. P. McDonnell on July 27. The talk is published in the *Wright County Journal-Press* of Buffalo for August 3.

Brief sketches of the services of William W. Folwell, Cyrus Northrop, William S. Pattee, Maria Sanford, and Henry T. Eddy to the University of Minnesota have been published in a pamphlet

entitled *Builders of the Name* (28 p.). They were originally presented at a Charter Day convocation held at the university on February 16 (see *ante*, p. 231).

The Daughters of Liberty chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Duluth have erected on the route of the old Vermilion trail through that city a bronze marker, which was dedicated on August 29. It bears the following inscription:

Past this point ran the old Vermilion trail from Minnesota Point on the north shore of Lake Superior through eighty miles of unbroken forest to the shores of Lake Vermilion.

This wilderness highway was laid out and built in 1865 by white men and Indians, under the direction of Surveyor George R. Stuntz, a notable pioneer of this region. Originally planned to serve the army of prospectors that for five years journeyed to an unprofitable search for gold at Lake Vermilion, it later furnished access to the genuine wealth of the Vermilion iron range.

To identify and perpetuate this historic site, this memorial is presented to the city of Duluth by Daughters of Liberty chapter, D.A.R., 1933.

The program worked out by the Minnesota State Federation of Labor in 1914 relating to prison labor is discussed in some detail in chapter 20 of the "Legislative History" of this organization, which appears in its *Year Book* for 1932 (see *ante*, 13:444).

The death on September 19 of Le Grand Powers, to whom Dr. Folwell gave the title of Minnesota's "Apostle of Labor" in his *History of Minnesota*, is the occasion for the publication of an editorial in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of September 23. The writer points out that the results of Powers' work are evident in the labor laws both of Minnesota and of the nation.

In an article on the "Indians of Martin, Faribault Counties," which appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for July 8, Mr. Allen L. Moore expresses the belief that the "Indians who occupied the Martin county area many years ago and the Indians who habitually camped along the Blue Earth river a few miles east were two different tribes."

President Lincoln's order for the execution of thirty-eight Indians at New Ulm in December, 1862, is quoted and some information about the Sioux Outbreak is presented in the issue for July 10 of

Lincoln Lore, a bulletin published each week by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The writer apparently saw only a facsimile of the order, and he seems to be unaware that the original is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Descendants of Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond, the Minnesota missionaries, have organized the Pond Family Association of Minnesota, which has for its objects the "fostering and promoting of interest in the work and accomplishments of Samuel William Pond and Gideon Hollister Pond . . . and their descendants; the cultivation of social intercourse among its members; [and] the collecting and publishing of genealogical and historical data relating to its members."

The Reverend Joseph Buh, Father Francis Pierz, William T. Boutwell, Frederick Ayer, George B. Aiton, and other missionaries figure in a brief survey of mission activities among the Indians of northern Minnesota that appears in the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for July 19. It is reprinted in the *Duluth Free Press* for August 11.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The destruction by fire of the old mill at St. Francis, which was built in 1887 and was last used during the World War, is the occasion for an article about its history in the *Anoka Herald* for July 19. Two pictures of the mill accompany the article.

The chaise used by Bishop Henry B. Whipple in his journeys as a missionary through frontier Minnesota has been acquired by the Blue Earth County Historical Society and placed in its transportation collection exhibited at Sibley Park, according to an announcement in the *Mankato Free Press* for July 24. Another feature of this museum is an exhibit of pioneer agricultural and household implements, and to this there has been added recently a plow mounted on wooden wheels which dates from 1885. Smaller objects owned by the Blue Earth County society are exhibited in the Mankato Public Library. There the society displays its large and valuable collection of Indian objects, pictures, newspapers, and objects illustrative of pioneer life.

An "Historical Narrative Contest" is being conducted by the Blue Earth County Historical Society among the school children of

the county and statements of the rules of the contest have been made available to all teachers, according to Mr. Horace W. Roberts, president. Prizes of from one to fifteen dollars are being offered for the fifteen "best written, most interesting and historically valuable accounts" of pioneer incidents or experiences in Blue Earth County.

Economic conditions in the vicinity of Mapleton and Mankato in the seventies and eighties are described in an interview with Mr. Thomas B. Taylor of Mapleton which appears in the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* for August 25. He recalls that his father hauled wheat to Mankato, where he disposed of it at a mill, and he relates that often a line of teams "almost a mile long" would be waiting along the road that approached the mill. Other recollections of pioneer days in Mapleton are included in interviews with Mr. Charles Ware, who was formerly a contractor and builder in the community; with William Albrecht, a local merchant who emigrated from Germany and settled in southern Minnesota in 1872; and with Hiram B. Tenney, whose father was the first village drayman. These interviews appear in the *Enterprise* for September 1, 8, and 15.

A History of the Christian Church, Garden City, Minnesota (8 p.) has been published to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding (see *ante*, p. 353).

The building of Fort Hill near Lake Hanska as a protection against the Indians during the Sioux War is recalled and the remains of the fort are described in an interview with Ole Synstebly, a Brown County pioneer, which appears in the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch* for August 10.

A "History of St. John's Society," which was organized by a group of men from St. Mary's Parish of Sleepy Eye in June, 1883, is contributed by the Reverend Francis S. Rant to the *Brown County Journal* of New Ulm for August 18.

The fifth annual North Shore Historical Assembly, a joint meeting of the historical societies of Cook, St. Louis, and Lake counties, was held at Lutsen on August 21. Attention was called to the state's Diamond Jubilee at the afternoon session by William E. Culkin of Duluth, who spoke on "Minnesota's Admission to Statehood and the

North Shore in 1858." Other speakers at this session were Mr. Dennis Dwan, who described the "Growth of the Postal System on the North Shore," and Mr. John D. Jenswold, who discussed the "Pigeon River in Relation to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty." The evening program included a report by Mrs. G. A. Wily on the dedication of a memorial to Father Baraga at Cross River, and an illustrated address by Captain James McCannel on "Early Navigation on the Great Lakes."

At a meeting of the Cook County Historical Society held at Grand Marais on September 15, the following officers were elected: the Reverend E. F. Lindquist of Grand Marais, president; Mr. W. E. Smith of Cross River, vice president; and Mrs. E. M. McLean of Grand Portage, secretary-treasurer.

A step toward the organization of an historical society in Douglas County was taken at the annual meeting of the Douglas County Old Settlers and Pioneers Union, which was held at Alexandria on August 27. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution.

About 175 descendants of the earliest settlers of Pilot Grove Township in Faribault County gathered at the site of the community's first schoolhouse on June 8 to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the settlement by four Scotch families from Palmyra, Wisconsin. The story of the little community that had its beginnings on the shores of Weasel Lake in June, 1858, was reviewed for the gathering by the Reverend Archibald Cardle of Burlington, Iowa, a son of one of the original settlers. He named the twenty-one persons who were the "original settlers of Pilot Grove township" and noted that other settlers of Scotch origin arrived in the sixties, when, near by to the south, there grew up also an Irish settlement. The speaker pointed out that the Scotch settlers were characterized by their love for their church, their belief in education, their industry, frugality, and thrift, and their sympathy for one another.

At the second annual meeting of the Chatfield Historical Society, which was held on September 11, Mr. G. A. Haven was elected president; Mrs. G. R. Thompson, first vice president; Mr. L. M. Thurber, second vice president; Miss Ruth Shimer, treasurer; and Mrs. G. H. Underleak, recording secretary. Plans were made for

the display in the local library of some of the pioneer objects collected by the society.

The Hubert Sholaas post of the American Legion at Hoffman has erected a granite marker on the site of "one of the first burial places in Grant county" and it plans to take over the care of the old cemetery, which has long been neglected. The marker also commemorates the site of the county's first school and earliest church, according to the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for August 3, which presents brief histories of both. A list of some of the pioneers who are buried in the cemetery also appears in the *Herald*.

The history of Wayzata and of the north shore of Lake Minnetonka was reviewed in a pageant presented at Wayzata on August 4, 5, and 6 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the municipality.

The passing of half a century since the village of Heron Lake was incorporated was appropriately celebrated by the people of the community from July 13 to 15. On "Homecoming Day" — July 14 — Mr. Arthur M. Nelson of Fairmont spoke on the history of Heron Lake and Jackson County. His address is printed in the *Heron Lake News* for July 20. During the celebration collections of pioneer objects were on display in the shop windows of the village. The issue of the *News* for July 6 is a "Golden Anniversary Edition," a feature of which is a facsimile of the first page of the first issue of Heron Lake's earliest newspaper, the *Guardian* of October 1, 1880. It is reproduced from an incomplete file in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Articles on early life in the village, including many reminiscent features, are contributed by a number of former residents — Mr. Sam S. Haislet and Mr. Carl Eastwood of Minneapolis, and Mr. G. A. Fairfield of St. Paul.

An unusually interesting community history is a narrative entitled "Pelan of Yesterday" by Ralph Johnson, which appears in installments in the *Karlstad Advocate* between August 11 and October 6. The writer, a resident of Pelan, prepared this history of his home community as a term paper in connection with a course in history at St. Cloud State Teachers College. His picture of the growth in the nineties and decline in the opening decade of the pres-

ent century of this village on one of Minnesota's last frontiers—Kittson County near the international boundary—is based upon material gleaned from local newspapers, from old letters, and from interviews with pioneers. The narrative opens with an account of the settlers who came into the region in the eighties and nineties, and of the Englishman, Charles Pelan, whose name is commemorated in that of the community. The organization of the township in 1900 and the incorporation of the village in 1903 are noted; the beginnings of churches, schools, and social organizations are described; and accounts are given of the stores and industries that developed. Of special interest is an account of the stage and hotel business that was conducted by Andrew and Nels Olson. The writer reveals that a stage line between Roseau and Stephen—a distance of seventy-five miles—did a thriving business before the days of the railroads. He points out that it was the coming of the railroads, two of which invaded Kittson County without passing through Pelan, that spelled the doom of the village. It “reached the climax” of its growth in 1903, and then gradually declined as the railroad villages of Karlstad and Greenbush developed. An account of social and industrial life in the village at the time of its greatest development is based upon items that appeared in the *Pelan Advocate*.

An “Aultman and Taylor ten horsepower wooden wheel traction engine with a hand steering wheel” that was used by a threshing crew in Le Sueur County as early as 1882 is described in the *Man-kato Free Press* for July 24. The engine is owned by Mr. Joseph T. Rynda, Jr., of Montgomery, who, according to this account, intends to place it in the Edison Institute at Dearborn, Michigan. A picture of the pioneer engine, which is said to have been manufactured in 1877, accompanies the article.

A display of objects and pictures illustrative of Indian and pioneer life in Minnesota attracted considerable attention at the Lincoln County fair held at Tyler from August 24 to 27.

A kerosene street lamp formerly used in Marshall, a melodeon, a drum used in the Civil War, a candle mold, and a hand-made butter churn were among the objects included in an “historical relics exhibit” arranged at the Lyon County Fair early in September.

The annual summer meeting and picnic of the Martin County Historical Society, which was held on August 27 near the site of old Cedarville, a deserted village, attracted about four thousand people. Attention was called to Minnesota's Diamond Jubilee by Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president of the society, who gave the principal address, taking as his topic "Minnesota's Seventy-five Years." The history of the Cedarville locality and of the northwest section of Martin County was outlined by Mr. Arthur M. Nelson, and the story of the English colony that was established around Fairmont in the seventies was recalled by one of its members, Mr. Harry M. Serle.

Lowville Township in Murray County is described as the site of Joseph Laframboise's trading post in the thirties of the last century in an outline of the history of the township published in the *Lake Wilson Pilot* for July 27. According to this account the first settlers, John and Bart Low, arrived in 1866; the township was organized in 1873; and the first census, which listed twelve families, was taken in 1875.

The first installment of a history of Fort Ridgely by Fred Johnson of New Ulm appears in the *Fairfax Standard* for September 7. He opens with an account of the selecting of the site and of the building of the fort on the Minnesota River between 1853 and 1855. A detailed description of the completed fort is included, and brief sketches of army officers who were stationed there from time to time are presented. Among them were such well-known figures as Captain N. J. T. Dana, Captain Alfred Sully, and Major Samuel Wood. Mr. Johnson was the principal speaker at a celebration held on the site of Fort Ridgely on August 22 in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the fort and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the battle of Fort Ridgely.

Plans for restoring old Fort Ridgely and for housing an historical museum within its walls were discussed at a meeting held at the home of Mr. L. E. Potter of Springfield on August 7, according to an announcement in the *Mankato Free Press* for August 11.

About five hundred people attended a meeting at Worthington on September 10 which resulted in the organization of the Nobles

County Historical Society. The state historical society was represented by its superintendent, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, who spoke on local historical work in Minnesota. Among the other speakers on the program were Mrs. James Gardner of Kinbrae, Mrs. A. J. Rice of Adrian, C. R. Saxon of Indian Lake Township, and Mrs. H. J. Ludlow of Worthington, each of whom outlined the history of his own locality. The new society, which was organized with eighty-two members, elected the following officers: Mrs. Ludlow, president; Mrs. E. J. Jones, vice president; and Mrs. Blanche Smallwood, secretary-treasurer. One of the first activities of the society was the arrangement of an historical exhibit at the county fair, which was held at Worthington on September 27 and 28. The *Worthington Globe* offered prizes for the entries that best illustrated pioneer life, and it published in its issue for October 3 an account of the exhibit.

The fiftieth anniversary of the cyclone that destroyed many of the buildings in Rochester on August 21, 1883, is the occasion for the publication of an account of the storm and its results in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for August 21. Several pictures of the disaster, from the collection of the Olmsted County Historical Society, accompany the article.

"The Coming of Colored People" to Fergus Falls is the subject of an interesting article by Senator Elmer E. Adams in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for September 16. He asserts that when the Grand Army of the Republic held its encampment at St. Paul in 1896, real estate dealers from Fergus Falls distributed literature among the visitors in the hope of attracting settlers. Some of the leaflets were carried back to Kentucky by colored Civil War veterans, and there a colony was organized with the purpose of emigrating to Minnesota. Mr. Adams relates that a "great influx of colored people" consisting of about eighteen families arrived in Fergus Falls in April, 1897, and that many of the younger members of the group are still living in the locality.

"Minnesota's Diamond Jubilee" was the subject of a talk given by George P. Gurley at a meeting of the Pipestone County Historical Society held at Pipestone on September 4. Other speakers included Colonel E. S. Wheeler of Slayton, a Pipestone County pioneer, who

gave a reminiscent talk on early days in the region; and Mrs. W. H. Anderson, who presented an obituary sketch of the late A. E. Rydell of Fountain Prairie. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Dora Chesley, president; Miss Mary Brown, secretary; Mr. J. E. Morgan, treasurer; and Miss Winifred Bartlett, historian.

The Rice County Historical Society coöperated with the *Northfield News* in arranging an historical exhibit at the Rice County Fair, which was held on September 22 and 23. An enumeration of some of the valuable and interesting articles included in this exhibit appears in the *News* for October 6 with the suggestion that "Northfield should have a museum for the collection and preservation of local historical objects." In an editorial about the exhibit and the interest aroused by it in the community, which appears in the *News* for September 29, the paper offers to "undertake a voluntary subscription effort to raise a fund to start Northfield's permanent historical museum." Such a fund would be used to buy cases in which historical exhibits could be displayed in the library building.

The program presented at the summer meeting of the Rice County Historical Society centered around the history of the Seabury Divinity School of Faribault, where the meeting was held on July 31. Sketches of Bishop Seabury, for whom the school was named, and of James Lloyd Breck, its founder, were presented by A. B. Childress and the Reverend V. E. Pinkham. Some "Outstanding Characters in Seabury's History" were described by H. C. Theopold, and Dr. Francis L. Palmer read a "Brief Outline of Seabury's History." The program commemorated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the school as well as the conclusion of its activities, since it has been merged with another Episcopal theological seminary at Evanston, Illinois.

The most spectacular event in the history of Northfield,—the bank raid of September 7, 1876,—is the subject of a booklet recently issued by the *Northfield News* (1933. 32 p.). It contains the story of the raid "in which a notorious gang of bandits led by Jesse James met their Waterloo, not at the hands of armed officers of the law, but of quiet, ordinary, peace-loving citizens of a little college town."

A brief "Historical Sketch of Northfield" is included in the pamphlet.

An historical pageant, a parade, and exhibits of pioneer objects and pictures in store windows were features of a three-day celebration held at Hibbing from September 15 to 17 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the village. The event was further commemorated in an elaborate anniversary number issued by the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* on September 14. Herein it is made clear that the story of Hibbing's origin and development is part of the larger story of iron mining on the Mesabi Range. A general account of the exploration and development of the range is contributed to the issue by W. L. Taylor; William E. Culkin is the author of a review of the early history of the region entitled "Hibbing under Four Flags" and of an account of the part played by the Merritt brothers in the finding of ore on the Mesabi range. The discovery of ore at the west end of the range in the Hibbing vicinity, the organization in 1892 of the Lake Superior Iron Company by Frank Hibbing, the latter's career, the land boom of the nineties, and the surveys made by George R. Stuntz and John Longyear are the subjects of other sketches that center around the story of iron. Another industry that claims some attention is lumbering; an article on this subject is accompanied by an excellent view of a lumber camp. The issue is notable for the amount of space that is devoted to social history. Forms of entertainment enjoyed by the earliest settlers are described by Eula B. Oliver; music, drama, and the motion picture are given considerable attention; the development of local sports is reviewed by Clarence T. Smith; early doctors and hospitals, fraternal organizations, and the public library are the subjects of articles. Arthur Silliman contributes a general survey of the community's church history; the story of "Early Education" is reviewed by Mrs. Susan Gandsey, the first teacher in Hibbing. Accounts of the local fire department, police force, and park system are included; and the organization of the village government is described. The part played by the people of Hibbing in the World War is recalled by John Saylor.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the forest fire that swept over Chisholm on September 5, 1908, and of the rebuilding of the village

was commemorated on September 3, 4, and 5. A program presented on the last day included talks on the fire by Edward Freeman of Virginia and by Mrs. G. L. Train of Chisholm, and an address entitled "Pioneers" by Martin Hughes of Hibbing. A bronze plaque commemorating the fire and honoring the pioneers who rebuilt the village was unveiled.

Merchandising methods and economic conditions on the Minnesota frontier of the seventies are vividly recalled by J. E. Townsend in an account of the "Store Business as Carried on in Belle Plaine 63 Years Ago," which appears in the *Belle Plaine Herald* for September 7, 14, and 21. Mr. Townsend became a clerk in the store of Thomas Jordan at Belle Plaine in 1870. He tells what the farmers of that day received for eggs, butter, pork, and other produce; he describes the methods used in counting and packing eggs; he relates that "butter was brought in by the women in fancy one-pound prints"; he tells about Jordan's activities in handling cordwood, farm machinery, dry goods, and groceries. The duties of a clerk in 1870 also are described by Mr. Townsend, who relates that he received a salary of twenty-five dollars a month. The writer of an editorial in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for September 11 comments on these reminiscences, remarking that they are "emphatic reminders" of the fact that the marketing of "farm products has undergone a great transformation in 60 years."

